

County Borough of Blackpool.



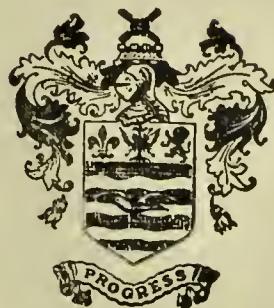
**ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
For the Year 1955**

by

GEORGE W. MURRAY

M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

County Borough of Blackpool.



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September, 1956.

*To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors
of the County Borough of Blackpool.*

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report for the year 1955 on the Health of the Borough and the activities of the Public Health Department.

The population of the Borough has varied little over the last few years and this year the estimate by the Registrar General is 147,200, a reduction of 300 on the previous year. The Birth Rate, 10.8 per 1,000 population, remains exactly the same as in 1954, and I am pleased to report that there was a considerable reduction in the number of stillbirths. The Death Rate shows little change from the previous year. The figure of 16.1 per 1,000 population does not compare favourably with the figure 11.7 per 1,000 population for England and Wales. This is largely explained by the fact that Blackpool has a large proportion of aged people in the population.

The infantile mortality is slightly higher than the previous year, mainly due to an increased neo-natal mortality.

With regard to infectious diseases, there was a serious outbreak of Sonne Dysentery during the year. The outbreak began in the last week of January and was more or less abated by the end of June. During the year, 2,847 cases were investigated by the department and 817 cases were confirmed. This is the largest outbreak of the kind that has been experienced in the Borough, the previous major outbreak being in 1952 with 425 confirmed cases. The control of these outbreaks is extremely difficult and it is mainly in Health Education with regard to personal and food hygiene that success can be achieved. During the year only eight cases of poliomyelitis were notified.

The work of the Local Health Services under the National Health Service Act continues to expand and details of the work done under the various sections may be found in the body of my report. The demand for Home Nursing and Home Help service continues to increase but shortage of staff prevents us giving as full or as adequate service as we would desire. It is hoped, however, that in the coming year we will be able to increase the staff particularly of Home Helps, so that more adequate assistance may be provided. Much of their work is in bringing help to the aged and infirm, of whom the Borough has a considerable proportion. The difficulties due to shortage of beds for aged sick in hospital add to the work of the Home Nursing and Home Help Services, but on the other hand the more assistance that can be given at home, the less need of hospitalisation would be necessary.

The work of the Mental Health Section of the department continues to increase. The acute shortage of hospital accommodation for mental defectives still exists but the short-term vacancies we have been able to get during the year have been much appreciated by patients and relatives of these cases. Possibly, further development of this scheme would not only give relief to those caring for the defective at home, but would reduce the number of applications for permanent hospital accommodation.

The problem of smoke abatement continues to occupy a prominent place. The department has been concerned with the serious aspect of smoke pollution in connection with the steam sterilization of the soil in greenhouses. Although the number of complaints have been considerably reduced, nevertheless there is no doubt that in the using of this type of machine for the purpose, it is practically impossible to avoid smoke emission. Constant investigations are being carried out and it is hoped that serious nuisances will be eliminated in due course.

The coming into force of the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955, will add a considerable burden to the department. There are approximately 12,000 food premises in the Borough and it was considered that the best form of approach to the problem was to arrange a series of lectures to which the various food trades and organisations should be invited. The lectures were exceptionally well attended and at them the requirements of the Regulations were fully explained. It was obvious that the food traders were keenly interested and showed willingness to co-operate with the Local Authority in ensuring a high standard of food hygiene in the Borough.

It is with regret that I have to report the retirement in August of Mr. George E. Fielding, my Chief Administrative Assistant, after fifty-one years service with the Corporation and thirty-three years in the Health Department. I wish him health and happiness in his retirement after such long and faithful service. His place was taken by Mr. J. A. Bentley, who started his duties in September, 1955.

In conclusion, I would like, ladies and gentlemen, to record my appreciation of your continued interest in the public health of Blackpool, and to express my thanks to other chief officials of the Corporation for information incorporated in my report. My sincere thanks are also due to all members of the staff of the Public Health Department for their unfailing and loyal support throughout the year.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

GEORGE W. MURRAY.

COUNTY BOROUGH OF BLACKPOOL HEALTH COMMITTEE.
 (As constituted 31st December, 1955).

THE WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR, ALDERMAN C. DUNN, J.P.

Chairman:

OUNCILLOR J. HEAP

Vice-Chairman:

OUNCILLOR A. WOOD.

ALD. H. HENSON.	COUN. K. McL. MUIR.
ALD. JOSEPH HILL.	COUN. J. MYERSCOUGH.
ALD. W. OGDEN.	COUN. E. NICHOLL.
COUN. H. W. BARNES.	COUN. J. PARKER, J.P.
COUN. P. T. FOWLER.	COUN. JEAN ROBINSON, J.P.
COUN. W. E. GILL, M.B.E., T.D.	COUN. W. STEVENSON.
COUN. J. H. HESSEY.	COUN. A. E. STUART, J.P.
COUN. C. HOOTON.	COUN. J. TAYLOR.
COUN. D. LOCKWOOD.	

2 Members on nomination of Education Committee :—

ALD. E. SMITH. COUN. G. PEEKS.

2 non-Council Members on nomination of Blackpool and Fylde British Medical Association :—

DR. A. C. FERGUSON. DR. C. S. PHILIP. (M.B., Ch.B.).
 (M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.).

1 non-Council Member on nomination of Corporate Members of Health Committee :—

MR. H. B. BAGSHAW, M.A., M.B., B.Chir., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., F.R.C.S.
 (A Gynaecologist).

2 non-Council Members on nomination of Executive Council :—

C. H. McKEITH, F.R.I.B.A. P. VARLEY, M.P.S.

1 non-Council Member on nomination of Local Dental Committee :—

J. B. ELTON, L.D.S.

2 non-Council Members on nomination of Blackpool and Fylde Hospital Management Committee :—

MRS. A. DEAKIN. J. A. WHITEHOUSE, J.P.

4 non-Council Members (Women) on nomination of Corporate Members of Health Committee :—

MRS. J. HENSON, S.R.N	MRS. H. ROBINSON.
MRS. A. OLIVER.	MRS. M. SAMUELS.

RELATED HEALTH SERVICES COMMITTEE.

THE WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR, ALDERMAN C. DUNN, J.P.

Chairman:

ALD. P. FAIRHURST.

Vice-Chairman:

COUN. T. B. FAIRCLOUGH.

ALD. JOSEPH HILL.	COUN. G. PEEKS.
ALD. W. OGDEN.	COUN. L. PILKINGTON.
COUN. A. ASHWORTH.	COUN. JEAN ROBINSON, J.P.
COUN. H. W. BARNES.	COUN. J. TAYLOR.
COUN. T. BRIDGE.	COUN. G. TURNER.
COUN. W. H. COUPE.	COUN. F. WELLS.
COUN. J. H. HESSEY.	COUN. E. WHITTAKER.
COUN. K. McL. MUIR.	COUN. F. WILDING.

**MEDICAL, ADMINISTRATIVE AND
CLERICAL STAFF.**

Medical Officer of Health and Principal School Medical Officer:

GEORGE W. MURRAY, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health:

DAVID W. WAUCHOB, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

Assistant Medical Officers:

KATHLEEN BALL, M.B., Ch.B.

MARIE-JOYCE RIBCHESTER, L.R.C.P., (Glasgow), L.R.C.S. (Glasgow),
L.R.F.P. & S. (Edin.).

Chief Public Health Inspector:

H. PRIESTLEY, M.B.E., F.R.S.I.

Chief Administrative Assistant:

GEORGE E. FIELDING (a) (Retired 31.8.55).

JOHN A. BENTLEY, D.P.A. (Commenced 9.55).

Superintendent Nursing Officer:

Miss W. BARLOW (c) (d) (e) (f) (g).

Health Visitors:

M. PARTINGTON (c) (d) (e), D. LEA (c) (e) (f), W. WALSH (c) (e) (f), P. WROE (c) (e) (f), M. LORRAINE (c) (e) (f) (g), M. RYDER (c) (d) (e) (f), A. McCULLAGH (c) (d) (e) (f) (g), A. LEACH (c) (e) (f) ; Tuberculosis Nurses: D. HARRISON (c) (e) (f), K. WATSON (c) (d) (e), F. NIGHTINGALE (c) (e) (f).

Midwives:

L. HILL (c) (e), G. DIXON (e), E. V. FISHER (e).

Home Nurses:

D. BENNETT (c), M. CATTERALL (c) (e), C. DOBSON (c) (d), I. DEWHURST (c), R. ELLIOTT (c), W. EMERY (c) (e), E. FOSTER (c) (g), E. GREATOREX (c) (d) (e), A. MYLES (c), M. McROY (c) (g), G. E. RONSON (c) (g), M. ROUGHT-BROOKS (c) (e), M. ROSSALL (c) (d) (e) (g) (h), G. L. SCHOFIELD (c) (e), A. SPENCER (c) (d) (g), N. ROE (c), E. YOUNG (c), R. A. MATKIN (c), J. M. HOLLAND (c).

Abattoirs Superintendent:

W. RILEY (a) (b).

Sanitary Inspectors:

Deputy Chief Sanitary Inspector, J. PICKARD (a) (b) ; District Inspectors, A. E. FITTON (a), E. SMITH (a), W. MOISTER (a), A. DANIEL (a) (b), T. W. LOMAX (a) (b), E. W. BURROWS (a) (b), E. JACKSON (a) (b), J. PARKINSON (a) (b), L. MOORHOUSE (a) (b) ; Pestologist, A. HOWARD.

Mental Health Staff:

Duly Authorised Officers, D. TAYLOR, H. J. CORPE ; Mental Health Worker, (Vacant) ; Supervisor, Occupation Centre, Mrs. L. V. HIGHAM, Assistant Supervisors, Mrs. M. G. GRIFFITHS, Miss K. PARR.

Administrative and Clerical Staff:

Senior Statistical Clerk R. PRYAR, A.C.C.S., Senior Clerks, J. BRIERLEY, H. R. DOWLING, J. RICHARDSON ; Secretary to M.O.H., Miss N. BROWN ; five male clerks and one storekeeper ; ten female clerks, three shorthand/typists and one telephonist.

Domestic Help Supervisor:

Mrs. H. McCLELLAN.

Physiotherapists:

Miss J. KELSALL, C.S.P. and Mrs. B. CHESTER, C.S.P.

Radiographer:

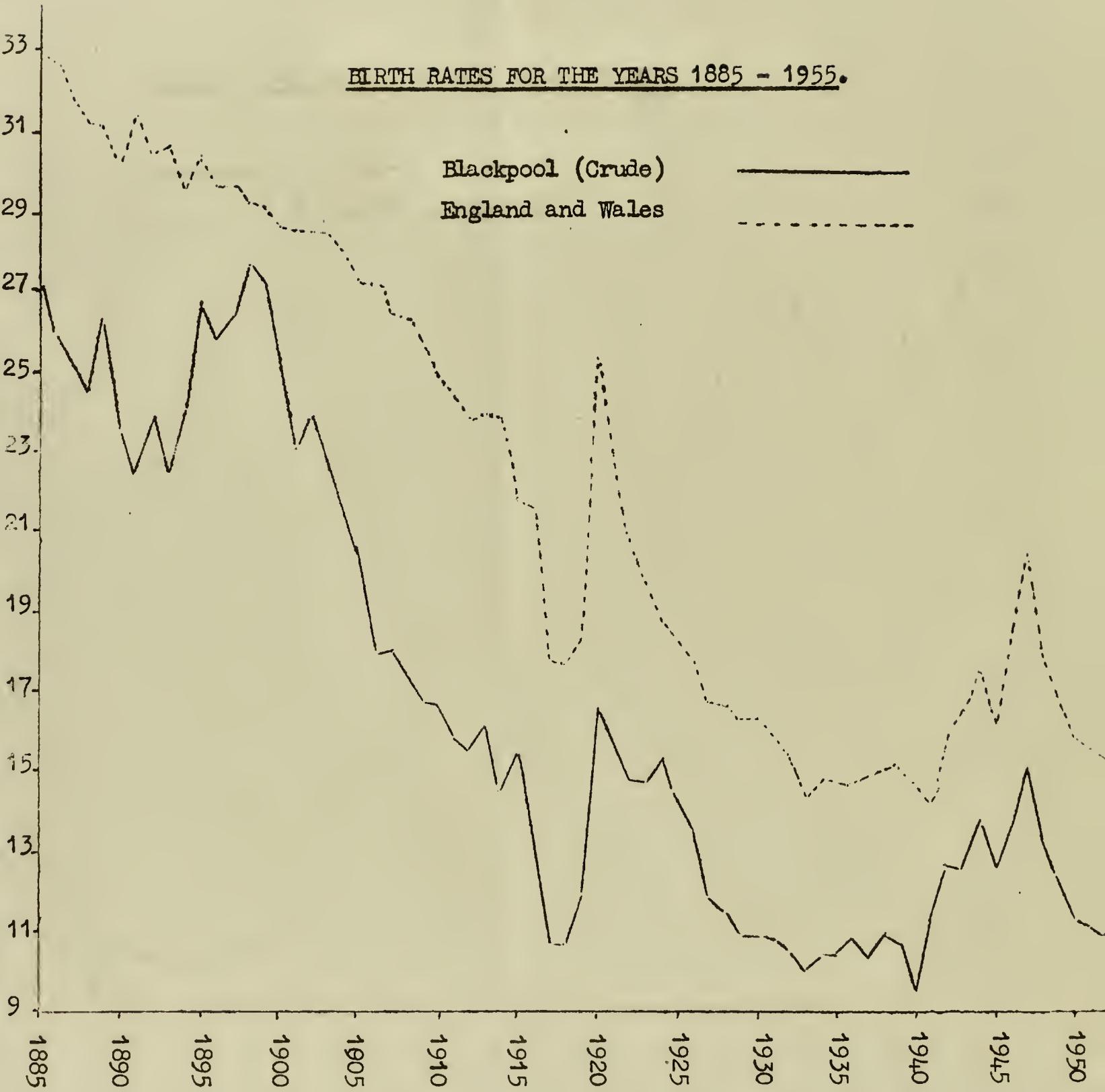
Mrs. M. EASTER, (c) (d).

- (a) Holders of Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute or Sanitary Inspectors' Examination Joint Board.
- (b) Holders of Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute for Meat and Other Foods.
- (c) General Trained.
- (d) Fever Trained.
- (e) State Certified Midwife.
- (f) Health Visitors' Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute.
- (g) Trained in District Nursing by Queen's Institute of District Nursing.
- (h) Midwifery Teacher's Diploma.

BIRTH RATES FOR THE YEARS 1885 - 1955.

Blackpool (Crude)

England and Wales



GENERAL AND VITAL STATISTICS.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (exclusive of foreshore)	8,650 acres.
Area of foreshore and Tidal Water	2,068 acres.
Population (Census 1951)	147,131
Population (Registrar-General's estimate—mid year 1954)	147,200
Number of inhabited houses	45,636
Number of empty houses	347
Rateable value of the borough	£1,885,087
Produce of a Penny Rate	£7,638

VITAL STATISTICS.

		Male.	Female.	Total.
Live Births :	Legitimate 797	650	1447	
	Illegitimate 76	60	136	
	Birth Rate (Crude) per 1000 pop. 10.8			
	Birth Rate (Standardised) per 1000 pop. 12.1			
Stillbirths :	Legitimate 20	20	40	
	Illegitimate 2	1	3	
	Rate per 1000 births (live and still) 26.4			
	Rate per 1000 population .29			
Deaths :	... ... ... ... 1132	1220	2352	
	Death Rate (crude per 1000 pop. 16.0			
	Death Rate (standardised) per 1000 pop. 12.8			
Number of women dying in or in consequence of childbirth :		No.	Rate per 1000 births (live and still)	
(a) Puerperal sepsis —		—	—	
(b) Other puerperal causes —		—	—	
Death Rate of infants under one year of age :				
(a) All infants per 1000 live birth 30.3				
(b) Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate live births 28.3				
(c) Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate live births 51.4				
Death rate of infants under four weeks of age (per 1000 live births) 25.3				

BIRTHS.

The number of live births resident in Blackpool during 1955 was 1583, a slight decrease on the previous year. The crude birth rate is 10.8 per 1000 population and the adjusted birth rate 12.1. The rate for England and Wales with which the local adjusted rate should be compared is 15.0.

Illegitimate Births. 136 such births were registered during the year resulting in a rate of .86 per 1000 population and amounts to 8.6% of the total births.

Stillbirths. 43 stillbirths were registered during 1955. This is a decrease on the previous year and gives a rate of 26.4 per 1000 total births. This compares unfavourably with the rate for England and Wales of 23.1.

DEATHS.

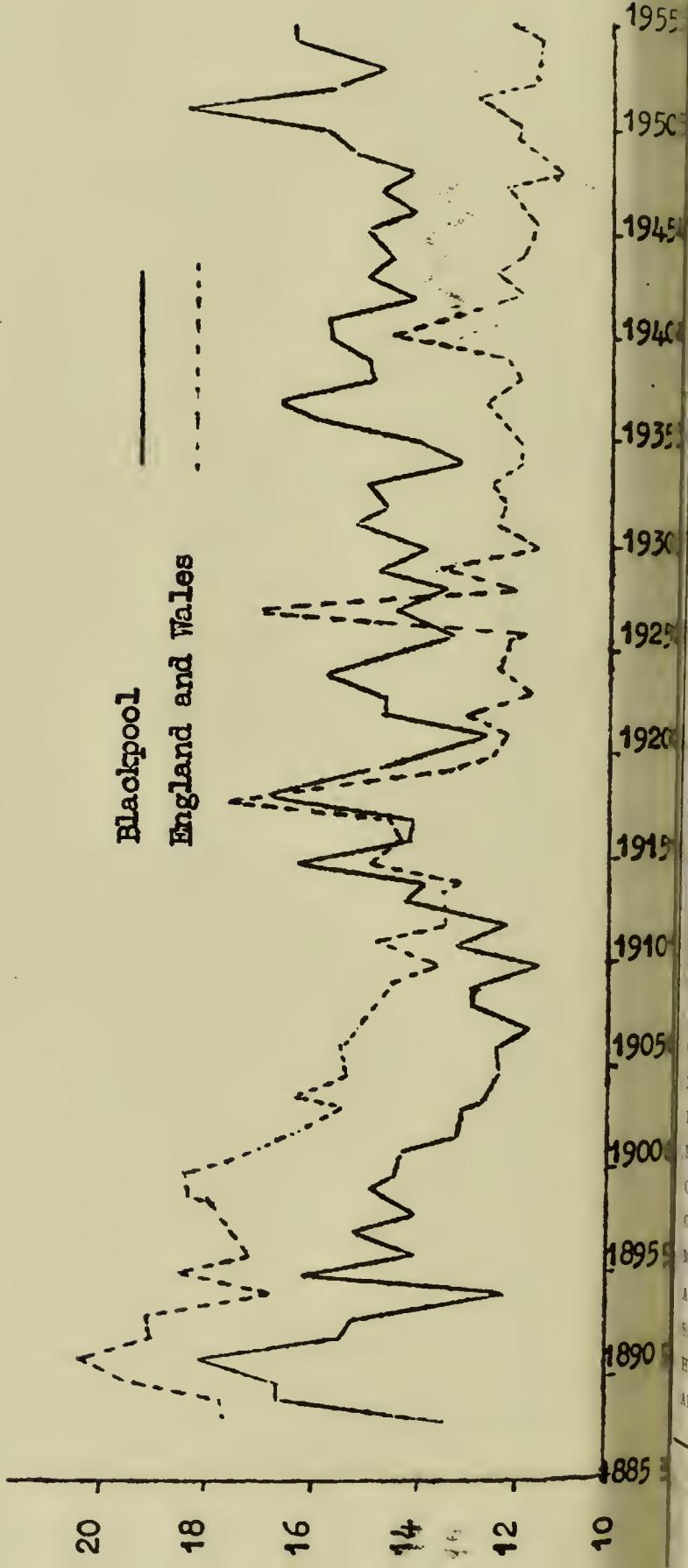
2352 deaths were allocated to Blackpool during the year under review. The corresponding crude death rate is 16 per 1000 population and the adjusted rate 12.8. Once again this latter rate does not compare favourably with the rate for England and Wales, i.e. 11.7.

The percentages of deaths in various age groups with corresponding figures for previous years are shown below:—

Age	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
Under 12 months	6.3	5.3	4.0	3.1	3.7	4.5	3.5	2.1	2.7	2.1	2.0	2.1	2.0	2.06
1 year and under 5 years ...	1.3	.9	.5	.8	.9	.6	.2	.2	.4	.5	.4	.4	.3	.30
5 years and under 15 years	37.3	35.1	36.4	34.1	34.0	32.2	32.3	30.7	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	.05
15 years and under 65 years									27.9	28.4	26.6	29.1	28.4	27.13
65 years and over	55.1	58.7	59.1	62.0	61.4	62.7	64.0	67.0	68.7	68.7	70.7	68.1	69.0	70.46

The detail in the following table showing total deaths allocated to Blackpool, classified according to cause and sub-classified into sex and age groups, is furnished by the Registrar-General.

COMPARISON OF THE CRUDE DEATH RATE OF BLACKPOOL
WITH DEATH RATE OF ENGLAND AND WALES, 1888-1955.



Causes of death at different periods of life in the County Borough of Blackpool.

		AGE OF DEATH									
		All ages	0—	1—	5—	15—	25—	45—	65—	75—	
Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	M 21	—	—	—	—	3	15	3	—	
		F 8	—	—	—	—	5	3	—	—	
Tuberculosis, other	...	M 2	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	
		F —	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Syphilitic disease	...	M 4	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	1	
		F 2	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	
Diphtheria	...	M —	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
		F —	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Whooping Cough	...	M —	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
		F —	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Measles	...	M —	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
		F —	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	M 4	1	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	
		F 2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	M 35	—	—	—	—	—	—	12	11	
		F 31	—	—	—	—	—	5	15	11	
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	M 50	—	—	—	—	—	—	28	18	
		F 12	—	—	—	—	—	4	2	4	
Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	F 44	—	—	—	—	—	3	16	11	
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	F 21	—	—	—	—	3	11	5	2	
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	M 110	—	1	—	—	1	6	30	41	31	
	F 109	—	—	—	—	—	4	42	33	30	
Leukaemia and aleukaemia	M 1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	
	F 2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Diabetes	M 5	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	2	
	F 6	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	2	
Vascular lesions of nervous system	M 159	—	—	—	1	2	31	50	75	—	
	F 226	—	—	—	—	5	38	62	121	—	
Coronary disease, angina	M 206	—	—	—	—	7	78	72	49	—	
	F 166	—	—	—	—	1	35	67	63	—	
Hypertension with heart disease	M 14	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	6	7	
	F 24	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	8	10	
Other heart diseases	M 168	—	—	—	—	4	28	42	94	—	
	F 248	—	—	—	—	1	20	43	184	—	
Other circulatory disease	M 50	—	—	—	—	—	—	13	14	23	
	F 56	—	—	—	—	2	3	12	39	—	
Influenza	M 7	—	—	—	—	—	4	1	1	2	
	F 5	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	3	
Pneumonia	M 23	1	1	—	—	—	—	6	8	7	
	F 38	1	1	—	—	—	1	10	12	13	
Bronchitis	M 81	—	—	—	—	—	—	27	32	22	
	F 44	—	—	—	—	—	—	11	5	28	
Other disease of respiratory system	M 7	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	3	2	
	F 5	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	4	
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	M 9	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	6	—	
	F 12	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	2	7	
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	M 5	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	2	
	F 3	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	1	
Nephritis and nephrosis	M 7	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	1	
	F 11	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	1	6	
Hyperplasia of prostate	M 13	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	12	
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	F —	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Congenital malformations	M 8	7	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	
	F 4	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	M 99	24	1	—	—	—	4	21	15	34	
	F 103	8	—	—	—	1	5	11	24	54	
Motor vehicle accidents	M 8	—	—	—	—	1	—	3	1	3	
	F 8	—	—	—	—	1	—	3	—	4	
All other accidents	M 15	—	—	—	1	1	4	2	2	5	
	F 25	1	2	—	—	—	2	2	8	10	
Suicide	M 11	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	6	1	
	F 13	—	—	—	—	—	1	9	2	1	
Homicide and operations of war	M —	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
	F —	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
ALL CAUSES	M 1132	33	3	1	4	38	316	338	399	—	
	F 1220	15	4	—	4	36	241	318	602	—	

Tuberculosis. 31 persons died during the year from tuberculosis ; of these 29 were classified as due to respiratory tuberculosis and 2 due to non-respiratory tuberculosis. The mortality rates (per 1000 population) for Blackpool and England and Wales are :

	Blackpool.	England and Wales.
Total Deaths	... .21	.146
Respiratory Tuberculosis	... .197	.131
Non-respiratory	... .013	.015

Heart Disease. 35 % of the total deaths have been directly ascribed to one or other of the various forms of heart diseases. The largest single cause was coronary disease and angina which accounted for 416 deaths out of a total of 826.

Cancer. 415 persons died from cancer, leukaemia and aleukaemia, during the year 1955. The mortality rate 2.8 per 1000 population is a slight increase on the previous year.

Cancer of the lung and bronchus which appears to be increasing year by year was responsible for 62 deaths during the year as against 62 the previous year. The respective mortality rates are .42 and .42 per 1000 population.

Infant Mortality. 48 children under the age of one year died during 1955. The death rate 30.3 per 1000 live births is slightly higher than in the previous year and is also higher than the corresponding rate for England and Wales, i.e. 24.9.

Neo-Natal Mortality. Of the 48 children who died during their first year 40 died in the first four weeks after birth. Here again, the mortality rate 25.3 per 1000 live births compares with the rate of 1954, showing that the increase in births has given a corresponding increase in deaths. The rate for England and Wales is 17.3.

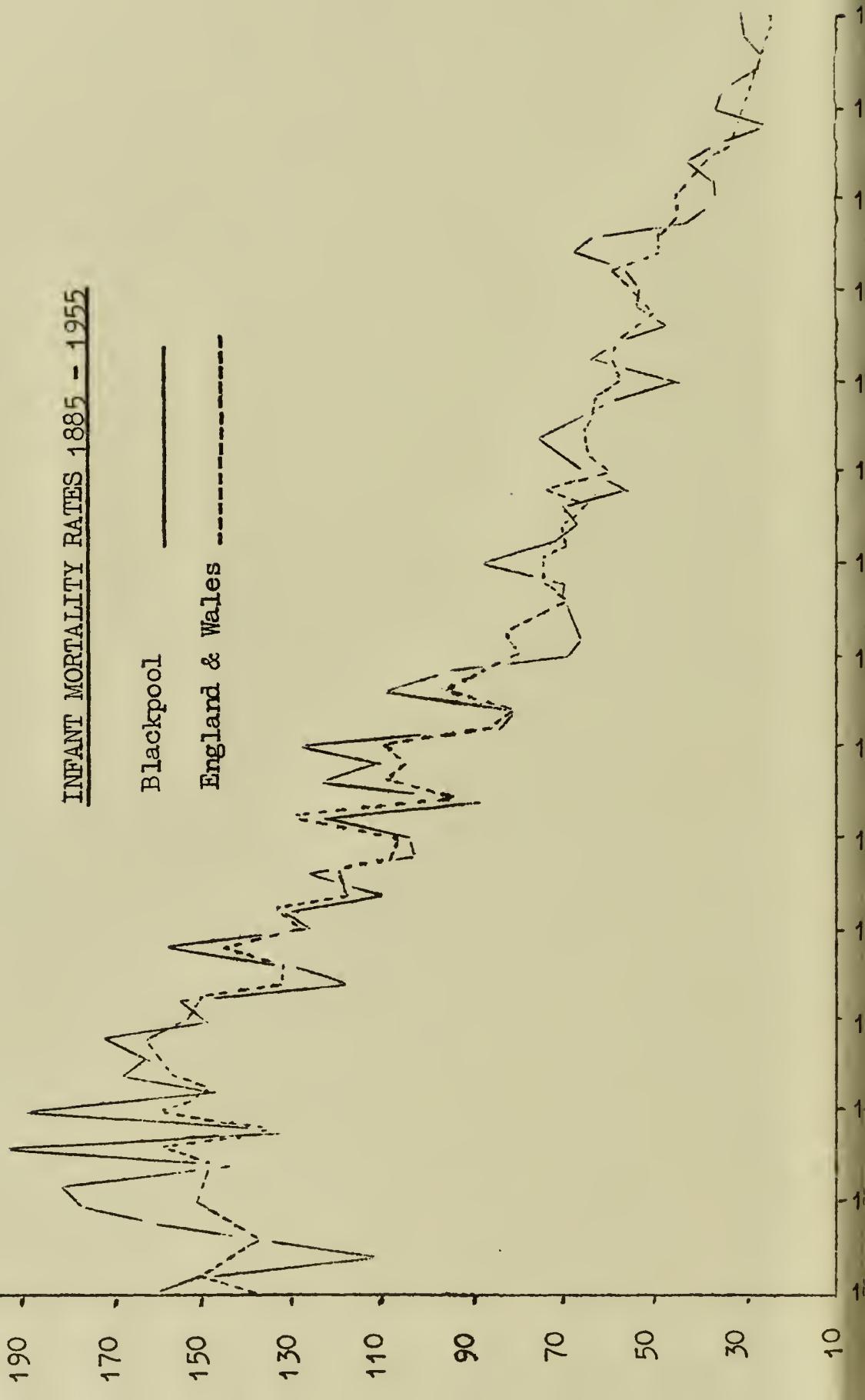
Details of the causes of the above-mentioned infantile and neo-natal deaths are given below :

Cause.	Infantile	Neo-Natal
Encaphalic Monster	...	1
Prematurity	...	20
Infantile Convulsion	...	2
Spina Bifida	...	3
Congenital Heart Disease	...	1
Atelectasis of Lung	...	4
Haemorrhage Neonatorum	...	1
Acute Bacillary Dysentery	...	1
Frederichson Waterhouse Syndrome	...	1
Cerebral Haemorrhage	...	5
Abnormal foetus	...	1
Hydrocephalus	...	2
Haemolytic Disease of New Born	...	1
Jejunal Atresia	...	1
Meningitis	...	1
Broncho Pneumonia	...	1
Inhalation of Vomit	...	1
Inanition	...	1

INFANT MORTALITY RATES 1885 - 1955

Blackpool

England & Wales



Maternal Mortality. There were no maternal deaths in Blackpool during the year.

Comparative Statistics. The following table affords a comparison between the statistics of previous years, so far as they are available, with those of the year under review.

Period or Year	Birth Rates			Death Rates					
	Total	Still-births	Illegitimate	Total	Infantile	Neo-Natal	Maternal	Tuberculosis	Cancer
	(per 1000 population)	(per 1000 total births)	(per 1000 population)	(per 1000 population)	(per 1000 live births)	(per 1000 live births)	(per 1000 total births)	(per 1000 population)	(per 1000 population)
1880—1890	25.2	—	—	15.3	144.2	—	—	—	—
1891—1895	23.9	—	—	15.3	168.2	—	—	—	—
1896—1900	26.5	—	—	14.4	159.9	—	—	—	.67
1901—1905	22.3	—	1.3	12.9	138.4	—	—	—	.03
1906—1910	17.4	—	1.2	12.2	115.4	—	—	—	.88
1911—1915	15.6	—	1.3	14.0	115.7	—	—	.91	1.3
1916—1920	12.7	—	1.4	14.7	88.8	—	—	1.0	1.6
1921—1925	15.0	—	1.3	14.3	73.3	—	6.6	.88	1.7
1926—1930	11.8	—	.93	13.7	66.2	—	5.7	.76	1.8
1931—1935	10.5	53.5	.76	14.2	63.6	—	6.0	.71	2.0
1936	10.8	55.2	.62	15.6	63.0	—	4.6	.63	2.1
1937	10.3	66.9	.64	16.6	57.7	—	3.1	.62	2.2
1938	10.9	42.5	.63	14.6	47.2	—	4.7	.59	2.3
1939	10.6	39.5	.78	14.8	53.5	—	2.6	.58	2.1
1940	9.4	40.4	.69	15.4	53.0	—	7.1	.49	1.7
1941	11.5	36.1	.97	15.5	56.8	—	2.0	.62	2.3
1942	12.7	36.9	1.3	13.8	68.4	—	4.8	.49	1.9
1943	12.5	30.3	1.2	14.8	62.6	—	2.5	.55	2.2
1944	13.8	33.7	1.4	14.3	41.3	—	3.8	.53	2.2
1945	12.5	29.1	1.7	14.8	37.8	—	2.6	.59	2.3
1946	13.7	28.2	1.3	13.8	37.8	—	2.8	.53	2.2
1947	15.2	27.1	.98	14.6	43.4	—	2.1	.53	2.1
1948	13.3	29.0	1.1	13.8	36.3	—	1.9	.47	2.2
1949	12.2	31.4	.88	15.1	25.8	—	1.1	.45	2.4
1950	11.3	28.7	.73	15.7	37.8	24.8	1.7	.30	2.4
1951	11.1	31.7	.86	18.3	35.2	24.7	1.2	.34	2.6
1952	10.9	29.0	.68	15.4	28.0	19.3	.6	.30	2.6
1953	11.0	27.6	.91	14.3	27.2	22.2	.6	.16	2.5
1954	10.8	32.2	.84	16.1	30.1	23.2	.6	.30	2.6
1955	10.8	26.4	.86	16.0	22.1	25.3	.0	.21	2.8

INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND EPIDEMIOLOGY.

Full details of cases of notifiable infectious diseases are set out in the following tables, and I should like to draw attention to the following.

For the fifth consecutive year I am able again to report that no case of diphtheria was reported in the borough, and there is a big drop in the number of cases of Whooping-cough.

Measles has again returned to a lower level, after a steep increase in 1954.

Scarlet Fever notifications have again fallen, so that the increased trend over the past eight years until 1953 has ceased.

Dysentery has nearly doubled the 1952 figure.

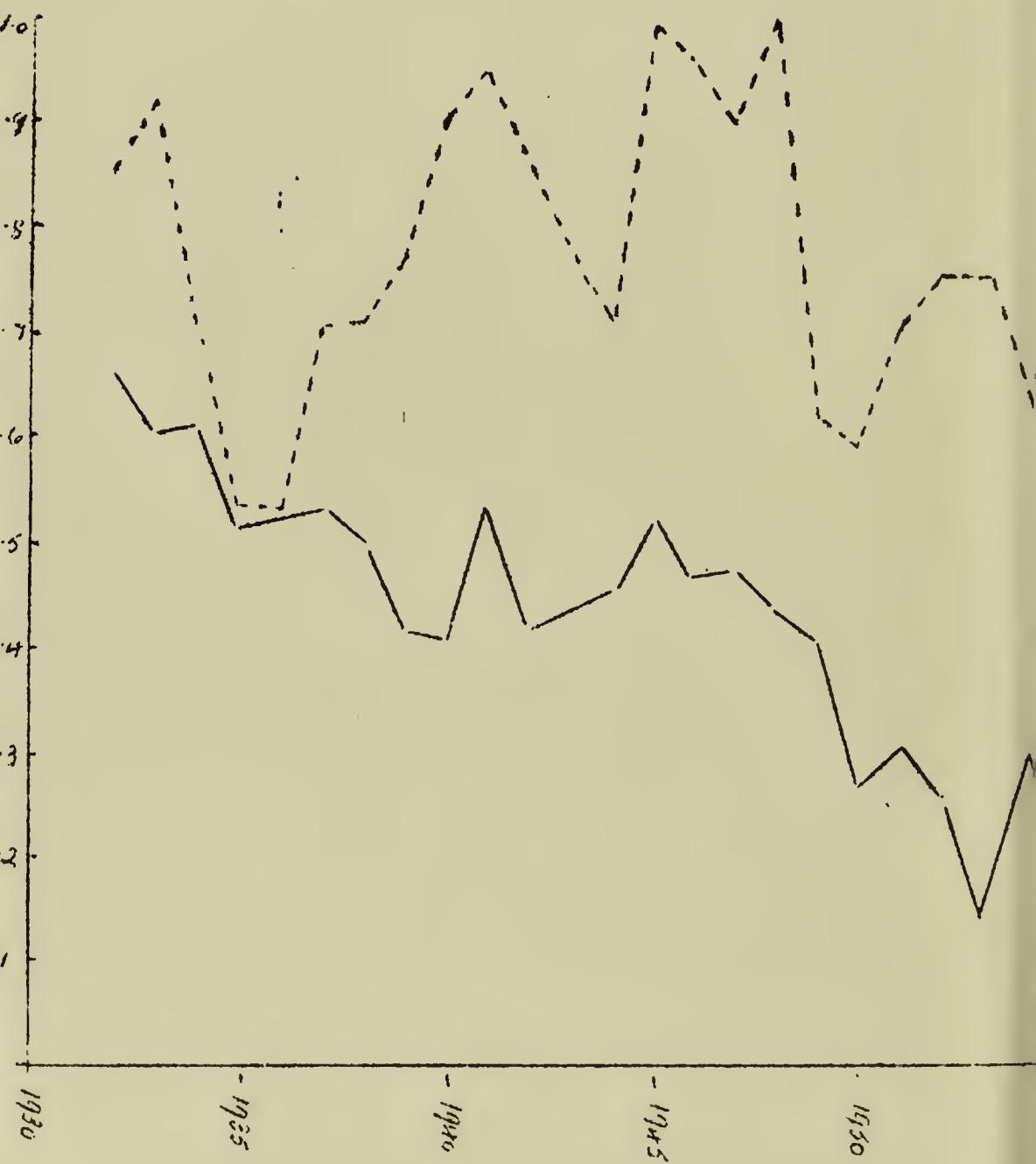
The incidence of Poliomyelitis has increased over last year, but does not compare unfavourably with the years 1952 and 1953. Three cases were paralytic and five non-paralytic.

Prevalence of Infectious Disease. The following tables give details of cases of notifiable diseases recorded during the past twelve years and corrected notifications during 1955 classified according to age groups.

Disease		1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
Scarlet Fever		566	530	219	148	140	260	280	239	224	265	379	152	137
Whooping Cough		513	322	280	463	267	331	326	290	245	508	430	192	93
Diphtheria		81	56	95	44	44	39	25	9	—	—	—	—	—
Measles		913	1526	715	883	975	1586	1089	698	1756	1733	695	1741	932
Pneumonia		99	70	23	21	21	23	31	16	43	35	35	21	19
Cerebro-spinal meningitis		18	12	4	8	5	13	5	3	1	5	3	—	5
Poliomyelitis		—	—	—	2	10	4	6	8	6	15	44	2	8
Polioencephalitis		—	—	—	—	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Encephalitis lethargica		—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery		19	2	—	11	1	53	33	12	10	425	30	87	817
Ophthalmia Neonatorum		11	7	1	—	2	25	16	4	2	4	23	26	17
Puerperal Pyrexia		56	65	34	8	34	33	41	25	26	53	41	41	56
Smallpox		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric Fever		3	7	17	9	1	3	16	1	2	1	—	1	—
Food Poisoning		—	—	not recorded	—	—	44	66	8	14	194	44	29	—
Erysipelas		35	51	44	46	33	38	41	29	21	22	32	22	18
Pemphigus		28	5	—	—	1	11	—	—	—	1	—	7	—

Primary Notifications of
Respiratory Tuberculosis

Deaths due to Respiratory Tuberculosis



TUBERCULOSIS.

Incidence. During the year 154 cases of tuberculosis were notified comprising 145 respiratory and 9 non-respiratory cases. Of these 86 (79 respiratory and 7 non-respiratory) were primary notifications. The remaining 68 supplementary notifications were made up as follows:—

5 from Deaths Returns from Local Registrars.

1 Posthumous Notification.

62 Transfers from other areas.

The following table classifies the notifications of tuberculosis according to age groups.

Age Periods	Notifications			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
0 —	—	—	—	—
1 —	—	1	—	—
2 —	—	2	—	—
5 —	2	1	—	—
10 —	2	—	—	1
15 —	1	6	1	1
20 —	3	6	—	1
25 —	7	7	—	1
35 —	5	4	1	—
45 —	11	3	—	—
55 —	6	2	—	—
65 —	8	2	—	1
75 —	—	—	—	—
Totals	45	34	2	5

The following table which summarises the notification register, shows the number of patients at the end of 1954, the fluctuation of patients during the year 1955 and the number remaining at the end.

Type and Sex of Cases	Remaining on register 31.12.54	Notific'ns (from all sources)	Died	Recovered	Transferred	Lost Trace	Altered Diagnosis	Remaining on register 31.12.55
Respiratory Tuberculosis	M 381 F 273	80 65	25 12	26 21	29 17	2 3	— 1	379 284
Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis	M 50 F 54	4 5	2 —	3 5	3 1	— —	— —	46 53
Totals	... ...	758	154	39	55	50	5	762

It should be noted that the deaths shown in the above table are the total number of deaths of persons on the register and are not necessarily those whose death was attributable to tuberculosis.

Mortality. The number of deaths which were attributable to tuberculosis in 1955 was 31. This includes 5 persons who had not previously been notified as suffering from the disease.

Chest Clinic. This clinic, administered by the Blackpool and Fylde Hospital Management Committee, is held at the Municipal Health Centre at the following times :

Monday	2 to 4 p.m.	New adult patients.
Tuesday	9 to 11 a.m.	Refill clinic.
	2 to 4 p.m.	Former adult patients for clinical and x-ray examinations by appointment.
Wednesday	9 to 11 a.m.	Children's clinic (old and new patients).
	2 to 4 p.m.	Special review of patients by appointment.
Thursday	2 to 4 p.m.	Former adult patients for clinical and x-ray examinations.
Friday	10 to 11 a.m.	Refill clinic.

VENEREAL DISEASES.

The Venereal Diseases clinic is located at the rear of the Municipal Health Centre and sessions are held at the following times :—

Males.

Monday	4-45 to 6-30 p.m.
Wednesday	11 a.m. to 12-30 p.m.
Thursday	4-45 to 6-30 p.m.
Saturday	11 a.m. to 12-30 p.m.

Females.

Tuesday	5 to 6-30 p.m.
Friday	11 a.m. to 12-30 p.m.

To bring the clinic facilities to the notice of the public, small notices are placed in all the Public Lavatories, Railway Stations and the larger licensed premises in the Borough, stating the location of the clinic and hours of attendance.

I am indebted to the Secretary of the Blackpool and Fylde Hospital Management Committee for the following details :—

	Syphilis		Gonorrhoea		Other conditions		Totals		
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	Total
Number of patients on 1st January, 1955, under treatment or observation	72	99	32	11	51	8	155	118	273
Number of patients removed from the register during any previous year which returned during 1955 for treatment or observations or the same condition	6	7	—	—	—	—	6	7	13
Number of patients dealt with for the first time during 1955 (excluding those transferred from other Centres, etc.	18	16	97	18	267	56	382	90	472
Number of patients dealt with for the first time who have been transferred from other Centres (civil or service) or from practitioners affiliated to other Centres	5	7	3	3	4	—	12	10	22
Number of patients suffering from syphilis and gonorrhoea discharged after completion of treatment and final test of cure, or who were diagnosed as "other conditions"	10	18	56	18	171	55	237	91	328
Number of defaulters and known deaths	14	16	31	2	86	7	131	25	156
Number of patients transferred to other Centres or Institutions or private practitioners	11	20	15	7	21	—	47	27	74
Number of patients remaining under treatment or observation on 31st December, 1955	66	75	30	5	44	2	140	82	222

FOOD POISONING.

Five outbreaks of food poisoning were recorded, and brief details of all these are given in the following table.

Cases Notified	Cases found to have symptoms	Consumers at risk	Organism or other agent responsible	Food involved.
1	3	4	Salmonella typhimurium	Not ascertained. The onset was early in the morning of the 5th January and the father developed symptoms on the 7th January. The boy aged 3 years had no made-up dishes or similar foods prior to the onset apart from Wall's sausages for tea on the 4th. The girl aged one year showed no symptoms. This case was only ascertained when faecal specimens from contacts were examined.
4	4	286	Staphylococci	<p>Not definitely ascertained. On the 23rd June, 1955 the Medical Officer of Health, Huddersfield, telephoned and reported that of a coach party of 25 who had visited Blackpool on the 21st June, 11 were affected with suspected food poisoning. Meals had been consumed at a cafe in Blackpool, and at one near Padtham. Subsequently the Medical Officer of Health at Huddersfield wrote to say that 16 persons had been affected and that the staphylococcus aureus had been isolated from a faecal specimen.</p> <p>Of the four people on the staff of the cafe who were affected, one, a cleaner, had only consumed buttered toast and coffee at the cafe prior to the onset of illness. The remaining three had consumed different meals from those supplied to members of the coach party. None of the four were employed in the kitchen. It is considered that the only common item of diet amongst the coach party and the staff would be milk. This was kept in a still-room in an uncovered pail which was dipped into by a measure as milk was required. This has now been replaced by an urn type of container with a draw-off tap. The use of chemicals for detergency and sterilizing has been increased.</p> <p>It is understood from the Manager that a cleaner employed at the cafe had an eruption on his face about the 21st June, but it is not known if it was definitely septic. This man refused to give a faecal specimen and his services at the cafe were terminated.</p>
29	29	150	Cl. welchii	<p>Roast brisket of beef strongly implicated.</p> <p>On the 15th August, 1955 a message was received from the Chief Sanitary Inspector of Halifax that 22 people out of a coach load of 25 had been taken ill on the way home from Blackpool, and had been taken for treatment to Victoria Hospital, Burnley. The party had had both lunch and tea at a cafe in Blackpool, the tea consisting of plaice and chips, ice cream and cakes. The brisket of beef was cooked on Friday evening, air cooled and refrigerated overnight. This was sliced and warmed on Saturday morning ready for serving at lunch. The probable infection is believed to have occurred during food handling.</p>
29	29	85	Cl. welchii	Home made steak pies strongly implicated. The pies were prepared on premises and after baking stored all night on a kitchen table at atmospheric temperature covered with a cloth. The pies were not jellied. The following day the pies were placed in a gas heated hot cupboard in readiness for serving to a coach party. A sample from remaining stewed meat was taken from a saucepan and Cl. welchii isolated.
15	25	250	Staphy. Aureus.	Not known. On the day in question 80 residents and approximately six coach parties of visitors were catered for without further complaints. No reported sickness amongst staff, and food stores and preparation rooms and kitchens were satisfactory. Refrigeration facilities are available.

Single Cases. Four single cases occurred during 1955. In all cases the infecting organism, salmonella typhi-murium, was isolated.

PROVISION OF SERVICES UNDER NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ACT,
1946.

SECTION 22—CARE OF MOTHERS AND YOUNG CHILDREN.

Child Welfare Centres. There are four Child Welfare Centres in the Borough, and the attendance at these Centres during the year are given below:—

	Municipal Health Centre	Bispham	Hawes Side	Layton	Total
Children under 1 year:					
First visits	431	309	413	151	1304
Total visits	5264	3904	5459	2278	16905
Children 1—5 years:					
Total Visits	1008	1726	1410	492	4636
No. of children who attended during the year and who were born in:					
1955	387	280	374	193	1234
1954	352	276	341	125	1094
1953-50	265	360	269	118	1012
No. of Sessions per week	2	2	2	1	7

A Child Welfare Centre on the Mereside housing estate is very necessary, and it is hoped that this will be provided in the near future.

All the babies who attend the Centres are seen and weighed by the Health Visitors on each visit, whilst the Assistant Medical Officer in attendance sees and examines all newcomers and is always ready and willing to see those whose mothers have specific problems of feeding, child management, or illness.

Ante-Natal Clinics. Ante-Natal Sessions are held weekly and are attended by the Assistant Medical Officers and the midwives from the areas served by these particular clinics, which enables them to see their patients with the doctor.

456 Sessions were held during the year at which there was a total of 10,107 attendances by 1,696 expectant mothers.

Attendances at the ante-natal clinics (including the two special sessions) during the year were as follows:

	Municipal Health Centre	Bispham	Hawes Side	Layton	Total
First visits	540	234	334	173	1281
Total visits	4249	1857	2664	1337	10107
Number of women who attended during the year	715	300	456	225	1696
Number of clinic sessions per week	4	2	2	1	9

Light Treatment, Exercise and Massage. This service is available in full at the Municipal Health Centre for expectant and nursing mothers, children under 5 years of age and school children, and at the Hawes Side and Bispham Clinics for expectant and nursing mothers and pre-school children only. The complete service has not yet been extended to the Layton Clinic but it is hoped to do this in the near future.

Confinements in Hospital and Admissions to Hospital on Social Grounds.

By arrangement with the Blackpool and Fylde Hospital Management Committee a special ante-natal booking clinic for those expectant mothers who wish to have their confinement in Glenroyd Maternity Hospital is held at the Municipal Health Centre on Friday mornings each week. The clinic is conducted by the Consultant Obstetrician to the Hospital Management Committee. Apart from the hospital nursing staff present, one health visitor and clerical assistance is provided by the Health Department.

Usually all first confinements are booked but other cases are assessed according to their medical and obstetrical needs. Those considered suitable for home confinement are referred to the Health Department and visited by the district midwife, who, if she feels that the home conditions are satisfactory, books the case. Should the home environment be unsuitable a report to that effect is forwarded to the Matron at Glenroyd Maternity Hospital and the patient is usually allocated a bed in the hospital. Throughout the year 493 cases were investigated.

Post-Natal Services. Post-Natal clinics are held once a week at the Municipal Health Centre and once every three weeks at the Bispham, Layton and South Shore centres. All mothers who have attended the ante-natal clinics are given an appointment for an examination six weeks after confinement. Where necessary the patient is referred to the Consultant Gynaecologist at the Victoria Hospital. During the year 642 women attended the clinic, 630 of which were new patients, and in all 736 attendances were made.

Birth Control Clinic. One Session of this Clinic was held weekly at the Health Centre, but it is proposed in the near future to reduce this to one Session every three weeks, as the numbers attending do not justify the weekly session. 92 patients were seen at the clinic during the year, 26 of whom were new patients. These 92 patients made a total attendance of 294.

Day Nurseries. There is one Day Nursery situated at the corner of Caunce Street and Devonshire Road, which is a non-residential nursery and provides a maximum accommodation for 50, although the average attendance does not exceed 25. The Council have adhered to the policy that only the following priority classes should be able to place a child in the nursery unless there are exceptional circumstances :

- (i) Unmarried mothers.
- (ii) Widows.
- (iii) Mothers not living with, or supported by their husbands and not in receipt of a separation, or similar, allowance.
- (iv) Mothers whose husbands are incapacitated by reason of ill-health or who are themselves similarly incapacitated.
- (v) Mothers whose husbands are serving in H.M. Forces.

The following table gives information regarding the attendances, staff, and number of mothers released for employment :—

Staff.

Matron	Deputy Matron	Nursery Assistants	Domestics
1	1	3	1

Attendances.

Total	Average Daily
6307	23.65

Number of mothers released for employment : 40.

Nurseries and Child Minders Regulation Act, 1948. During the year 3 applications were received for registration under the above Act. One application for a private Day Nursery was not granted, but two daily Minders to provide for eleven children were registered.

Welfare Foods. Cod liver oil, orange juice, vitamin tablets and National Dried Milk are now available at the Health Centre Clinic between 9-15 a.m. and 5 p.m. Mondays to Fridays, and from 9-15 to 11-45 a.m. on Saturdays. These items are also available at certain clinic sessions at Bispham, Layton and Hawes Side. Proprietary brands of welfare foods are also supplied where the Clinic Medical Officer considers it desirable.

The following table gives information of the various welfare foods distributed during the year ended 31st December, 1955 :

National Dried Milk	Cod Liver Oil	Vitamins	Orange Juice	Proprietary Brands Welfare Foods
45,691	9922	5238	79,185	22,873

The total receipts for these issues amounted to :

Ex-M.O.F. Welfare Foods	Proprietary Brands Welfare Foods
£3617	£3000

Mother and Baby Homes. An annual grant is made by Blackpool Corporation to the Fylde House of Help and the Lancaster Diocesan Protection and Rescue Society ; the former association arranges accommodation for the unmarried mother to have her confinement and the latter maintains a home for such cases. Maintenance fees incurred in respect of Blackpool cases are also met. Two women for whom this Authority was responsible were admitted to accommodation secured by the above organisations during the year.

Illegitimate Children. The major portion of the social work in Blackpool in this particular sphere is carried on by the Fylde House of Help, the Lancaster Diocesan Protection and Rescue Society, and the Health Visitors of this department. In those cases where the question of adoption arises the Children's Officer is affected and in certain instances the Probation Officer is also concerned. A Social Worker to deal specifically with this work has not been appointed by the department.

The following table shows the number of persons treated and attendances at the various clinics:—

*Included in Exercises.

Post-Natal Clinics. Post-Natal Clinics are available for all who wish to avail themselves of this service, and the patients who attend the Ante-Natal Clinic are advised to return six weeks after confinement in order that a post-natal examination may be made. During the year 642 nursing mothers attended for a post-natal examination.

Dental Care. The dental service arrangements are far from satisfactory, but it is hoped during the next twelve months to provide a dental service for expectant and nursing mothers through the school dental service at the school dental clinics.

Care of Premature Infants. Every effort was made during the year to ensure that special care was given to all premature births. All such births receive an early visit by the Health Visitor. During the year 1955 there were 120 premature births of which 96 survived for one month. Of this number 106 were born in hospital and of these 82 survived for one month.

Care of Premature Infants. The following table shows details of premature live births in the borough, after adjustment for transferred notifications, classified according to place of birth, birth weight and period of survival after birth. Details of premature stillbirths classified according to place of birth and birth weight are also given.

Weight at birth	PREMATURE LIVE BIRTHS										PREMATURE STILL-BIRTHS				
	Born in Hospital					Born at home and nursed entirely at home					Born in nursing home and transferred to hospital on or before 28th day			Born in nursing home	
	Died within 24 hrs. of birth	Survived 28 days	Total	Died within 24 hrs. of birth	Survived 28 days	Total	Died within 24 hrs. of birth	Survived 28 days	Total	Died within 24 hrs. of birth	Survived 28 days	Born in hospital	Born at home	Born in nursing home	
3 lb. 4 oz. or less	18	8	4	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	10	1
Over 3 lb. 4 oz. up to and including 4 lb. 6 oz.	22	4	15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—
Over 4 lb. 6 oz. up to and including 4 lb. 15 oz.	24	—	22	3	—	3	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	1	—
Over 4 lb. 15 oz. up to and including 5 lb. 8 oz.	42	—	41	8	—	8	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
Total	106	12	82	11	—	11	3	—	3	1	—	1	—	16	1

Ophthalmia Neonatorum. During the year 17 cases were notified. In all notified cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum there was no vision lost or impaired.

SECTION 23 — MIDWIFERY SERVICE.

On the 31st December, 1955, 40 midwives registered as intending to practise in the Borough. Of this number one was in private practice, two were employed in Maternity Homes, and three were municipal midwives. Twenty-seven of the midwives were qualified to administer gas and air analgesia. During the year these nurses attended a total of 1880 cases.

Each municipal midwife within the Borough is allotted a specific district, but she is not necessarily strictly confined to the area allotted to her, and may, if necessary, attend cases outside her normal area, particularly during holidays and sickness of other midwives.

The midwives are encouraged to attend the ante-natal sessions held at the Borough Clinics where they are able to see their own patients and discuss them with the doctor in attendance. This arrangement is beneficial both to the midwife and the patient.

The following table indicates the cases attended by all midwives in the Borough during 1955.

	*Confinements attended.	Confinements with use of		
		Pethedine	Trilene	Gas/Air Analgesia
(a) Local Health Authority Services:— Municipal Midwives	340	109	7	276
(b) Hospital Services:— In State Hospitals	1469	887	21†	948
(c) In Private Practice:— Domiciliary, Nursing Homes, etc. ...	71	53	—	66
Total — All Services	1880	1049	28	1290

*Actual number of mothers who gave birth to live or stillborn infants.

†This number is for Glenroyd Maternity Hospital only from November 1955.

†Records for Victoria Hospital do not show this information.

SECTION 24 — HEALTH VISITING.

The Health Visitors are responsible for visiting homes to advise on the care and management of infants. Every birth is notified to the appropriate Health Visitor who visits the mother and baby as soon as possible, usually on the fourteenth day after birth. Re-visits are paid periodically to the home of the pre-school child to advise and help the mother in every possible way. Unfortunately when the child attains school age he or she is no longer under the care of the Health Visitor but is transferred to the school nurse.

The National Health Service Act, 1946, has widened the scope of the Health Visitor's work, so that she can now be the advisor on the health and well-being of the whole family, and she is encouraged to assist the general practitioner in every way possible.

The establishment of Health Visitors is 13, but the actual number employed at the 31st December 1955 was 10. It is hoped to recruit the additional staff required as soon as possible. The Health Visitors available, however, are evenly distributed throughout the town. Arrangements are made so that the Health Visitors may devote as much time as possible to home visiting, and all newly born infants are given priority visiting. The following table gives details of the visits paid by Health Visitors during the year:

(a) To expectant mothers :	...	...	...	...	...	180
(i) First visits :	...	...	...	...	...
(ii) Total visits :	...	...	...	...	...	267
(b) To children under one year of age :	...	...	...	...	...
(i) First visits :	...	...	...	...	...	1557
(ii) Total visits :	...	...	...	...	...	6536
(c) To children age 1 and under 2 years :	...	...	...	...	...
Total visits :	...	...	...	...	...	4099
(d) To children age 2 but under 5 years :	...	...	...	...	...
Total visits :	...	...	...	...	...	7893
(e) To other cases (except School Children) :	...	...	...	...	...
Total visits :	...	...	...	...	...	2607

SECTION 25 — HOME NURSING.

Home nursing is carried out in the town by a staff of 19 District Nurses under the supervision of a non-medical Superintendent Nursing Officer.

District Nursing is on the increase and the services of the District Nurse are being requested more and more. There has been an increase particularly in the number of injection treatments prescribed by general practitioners, often requiring two or three visits to the same patient in one day, and this can be a burden, especially in the busy months of the year. The following illustrates the types of injections given :—Streptomycin, Insulin, Penicillin, Mersalyl, Cytamen, Myocrisin, Neptal, Analemen, Adrenalin, Liver.

The majority of visits are made in connection with Streptomycin: 2731, and Insulin: 6735.

There is a large demand during the season for home nursing attention to visitors, particularly again for injection treatments. In this respect the following cases were dealt with in 1955:

Surgical Dressings	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
General Nursing Care	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Enema	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Penicillin Injections	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Insulin Injections	...	...	...	...	...	...	95
Other Injections	...	...	...	...	...	...	65

The number of visits involved was 1,165. There is an increase in the number of patients treated but a slight decrease in the number of visits made.

Transport for the District Nurse is provided by means of auto-cycles, power pedal cycles and pedal cycles in certain instances, the remaining staff using public transport.

The following tables give an indication of the type of work undertaken by the District Nurses during the year ended 31st December, 1955.

	Analysis of Cases				Visits to all Cases				
	Under 5	5-65	Over 65	Total	Under 5	5-65	Over 65	Total	
Tuberculosis :	1	69	4	74	—	196	28	224	
(a) Nursing Care (b) Streptomycin					4	2603	124	2731	
Cancer	...	50	85	135	—	1550	2612	4162	
Heart	...	61	140	201	—	1654	2473	4127	
Diabetic	...	50	92	142	—	1623	5112	6735	
Other Medical	...	8	488	654	1150	28	8913	11352	20293
Other Surgical	...	5	183	185	373	54	3191	4173	7418
Infectious Diseases	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Maternal Complications	...	—	11	—	11	—	166	—	166
Chronic	...	—	36	440	476	—	1605	12221	13826
Others	...	2	5	5	12	5	50	335	399
TOTALS	...	16	953	1605	2574	91	21560	38430	60081

SECTION 26 — VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION.

Diphtheria Immunisation. The Immunisation Clinics held throughout the town continued during the year to be well attended. The arrangements whereby there were separate immunisation Clinics from the normal Child Welfare Clinics resulted in increased attendances. Mothers are constantly encouraged to bring their babies to the clinics for immunisation from the age of three months onwards.

At the end of the year 59 general practitioners were taking part in the arrangements of the National Health Service Act 1946 whereby doctors who immunise their own patients under the Local Health Authority's approved arrangements may obtain free supplies of prophylactic and receive a fee of 5/- per case upon the receipt by the Medical Officer of Health of a completed record card.

During the year 1557 children received a full course of immunisation against diphtheria, whilst 2308 children who had previously received a full course were given a reinforcement dose.

Verbal propaganda by Medical Officers and Health Visitors in the course of their duties, and in addition the distribution of leaflets, is used with a view to persuading parents and the public generally as to the value of immunisation.

Combined diphtheria and whooping cough immunisation is available to those parents who desire it, and most parents are taking advantage of the double protection. It is proposed in the future to make available triple antigen, namely, diphtheria, whooping cough, and tetanus immunisation.

Vaccination. Vaccination Clinics at the same time as Diphtheria Immunisation Clinics were held throughout the town. In addition to these clinics 59 general practitioners were taking part at the end of the year under the National Health Service Act, 1946, whereby doctors who vaccinate their own patients under the Local Health Authority's approved arrangements receive a fee of 5/- per case upon the receipt of a completed record card by the Medical Officer of Health. During the year 592 vaccinations were carried out and in addition there were 452 re-vaccinations.

A large number of the vaccinations which are undertaken by the Authority's Medical Officers are in respect of members of the public who are emigrating abroad. During the year no complications of vaccination occurred. The number of newly born babies who are vaccinated is far from satisfactory and only 20% of all newly born babies in the town were vaccinated during the year.

Verbal propaganda by Medical Officers and Health Visitors in the course of their duties and in addition the distribution of leaflets is used with a view to persuading parents and the public generally as to the value of vaccination.

The following tables show the number of persons by age groups vaccinated and immunised during the year :

Age at date of vaccination	Under 1	1	2 to 4	5 to 14	15 or over	Total
No. vaccinated ...	322	33	49	48	140	592
No. re-vaccinated	7	4	37	71	333	452

		Age at date of final injection (as regards (a) and (b)) or of re-inforcing injection (as regards (b))			
		Under 1	1-4	5-14	Total
Diphtheria Immunisation	(a) Number of children who completed a full course of primary immunisation (including temporary residents) during the year	717	423	417	1557
	(b) Number of children who received a secondary (reinforcing) injection (i.e. subsequently to primary immunisation at an earlier age) during the year	—	133	2175	2308
Whooping Cough Immunisation	(c) Number of children who completed a full course of immunisation (including temporary residents) during the year	678	361	23	1062

Of the total injections shown at (a) and (b) in the above table, 262 and 1113 injections respectively were given at sessions conducted by the school medical service.

SECTION 27 — AMBULANCE SERVICE.

The organisation of the Ambulance Service remains the same as in previous years, and the table below indicates the amount of work undertaken by both the town's ambulance and the agency service. The total strength of vehicles provided by the Local Authority Ambulance Service is 6 ambulances and 1 sitting case car, and these are used for all journeys within the Borough, while the Invalid Transport Company do all the infectious diseases cases and out of town journeys.

The following table summarises the work of the ambulance service during the year.

	Directly provided Service	Agency Service	Supplementary Service (including Hospital Car Service)	Total for the whole service			
				Ambulances	Stretcher-cases	Vehicles	Total for all
1. No. of operational vehicles on establishment at 31st December, 1955	6	1	7	9	2	11	—
2. No. of vehicles fitted with wireless at 31st December, 1955	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3. No. of persons carried (excluding relatives, escorts and friends)							
(a) Section 27 Patients:							
(i) Accident or Emergency	3040	—	3040	—	—	—	3040
(ii) Others	22458	8878	31336	4480	560	5040	—
(iii) Totals of (i) and (ii)	25498	8878	34376	4480	560	5040	—
(b) Other persons, e.g. persons taken to day nurseries, welfare institutions, occupational centres, clinics, special schools, etc.	1055	—	1055	—	—	—	1055
Grand Total i.e. (a) (iii) and (b) (iii)	26503	8878	35431	4480	560	5040	—
4. No. of journeys by vehicles:							
(a) Patient carrying journeys	15421	242	16663	2873	404	3277	—
(b) Abortive and service journeys	277	—	277	67	—	67	—
(c) Journeys for transporting anaesthesia apparatus, Midwives, etc.	411	—	411	—	—	3344	—
TOTAL	16109	242	16351	2940	404	3344	—
5. Total mileage (including that in respect of 3(b))	88099	6873	94972	112151	27447	139598	—
6. No. of operational staff (station officers, drivers and attendants) at 31st December, 1955:							
(a) Paid	—	—	—	—	—	11	—
(b) Voluntary (whole-time equivalent)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

* Mileage of local journeys not recorded and cannot be included in this figure.

† Estimated mileage.

“ Patient ” means one patient carried once in one direction, i.e. a patient taken to a hospital and later in the same day taken home again counts as two, whether or not the ambulance waits to take the patient home.

“ Journey ” means a vehicle’s round trip from the place where it normally awaits orders, back to that place. This place will usually be its home ambulance station but where an ambulance is stationed at a hospital during working hours, it will be the hospital. The journey should not be regarded as being broken by diversions made to carry out fresh instructions received during its course.

SECTION 28 — PREVENTION OF ILLNESS, CARE AND AFTER-CARE.

Prevention of Illness. The circulation of exhibition posters and leaflets was continued during the year, and in addition such display material was provided at gas and electricity showrooms, libraries, clinics, public buildings, and other prominent points within the town.

Tuberculosis. Care and after-care of tuberculosis patients and their convalescence is carried out by three Tuberculosis Health Visitors. These Health Visitors carry out certain duties at the Chest Clinic, situated at the Municipal Health Centre, Whitegate Drive, Blackpool, and work from this Clinic in close liaison with the chest physicians in attendance.

Contacts of all newly diagnosed cases of respiratory tuberculosis are visited without delay by the Tuberculosis Health Visitors and are invited to attend at the Health Centre for X-ray examination. Contacts are also advised to have an annual check X-ray to ensure that if infection has spread it is detected in its early stages when there is more chance of the patient recovering after treatment. The following are details of contacts examined at the Chest Clinic, notified cases of tuberculosis and numbers of contacts subsequently notified as tuberculosis.

Year	Contacts examined	Total examinations of contacts	Notified cases	Contacts subsequently notified as tuberculosis
1948	281	807	263	6
1949	231	929	169	14
1950	274	951	169	8
1951	316	906	173	1
1952	480	1001	173	8
1953	435	766	173	14
1954	483	766	177	16
1955	416	636	154	3

Deaths of persons suffering from tuberculosis are noted from the weekly returns of deaths submitted by the local Registrars of Births and Deaths and persons who had not previously been notified as suffering from the disease are recorded posthumously, the household is visited and as mentioned above the contacts are invited to attend for a check X-ray. 5 posthumous notifications were recorded during the year and 6 contacts of the deceased were referred to the Chest Clinic.

B.C.G. Vaccination is offered to all children and young persons who are known contacts of a case of respiratory tuberculosis and who have not had a primary infection. During the year 71 persons were tuberculin tested to ascertain whether there was a primary infection or not, and the following were given B.C.G. vaccination.

Under 2 years	Over 2 years and under 5 years	Over 5 years and under 15 years	Over 15 years	Total
37	8	26	1	72

As yet no scheme for the offering of B.C.G. Vaccination to school-leavers, i.e. the 13 years plus, group, has been formulated by this Authority. It is anticipated that further action will be taken in 1956 with a view to vaccination being available to school leavers.

Reference will be made later in this report to the scheme for the award of points on medical grounds to applicants for municipal houses. It is of interest to record here that 10 cases were considered on the grounds that there was a tuberculous member of the household and that it was desirable that he or she should have separate sleeping accommodation which could not be provided in their present living accommodation.

No mass radiography survey has been undertaken during the year but I would like to draw attention to an addition to the previously existing X-ray facilities at the local chest clinic. A Watson camera unit has been installed in the x-ray clinic which enables a 4 inch x 5 inch plate to be taken. The facilities provide also for general medical practitioners to refer their patients direct to the X-ray department without prior physical examination at the chest clinic. The smaller film enables more plates to be developed by the radiographer and since 1st July, 1954 when the scheme commenced and until the end of the year 1583 patients were dealt with of which 20 were subsequently notified as tuberculous.

The following figures give a summary of the work undertaken by the three Tuberculosis Health Visitors during the year 1955 :—

Number of dispensary sessions attended :	629
Number of domiciliary visits :	
(a) Routine visits :	
(i) New cases and contacts :	
(ii) Old cases and contacts :	
(iii) Other Chest Conditions :	
(iv) Undiagnosed cases :	
(v) Others :	
Total visits to all cases ...	
3869	

Prevention of Break-up of Families. Any problem families which came to notice during the year were dealt with by the Health Visitors and by the provision in some cases of Home Helps. It is felt that many problem families could be dealt with more satisfactorily if there was a recognised Co-ordination Committee, as recommended in the joint circular of the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, and Home Office, at which individual cases could be discussed by all the officers and voluntary bodies. It is well known that such Committees are working well in other Authorities in dealing with the break-up of families.

The services provided by the Brentwood Recuperative Centre, Marple, Cheshire, are also used for any cases where the question of home management is the main cause of the trouble.

SECTION 29 — DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE.

On the 31st December 1955 the staff consisted of one supervisor and 30 domestic helps, of whom 24 were full-time and 6 part-time. This number of Home Helps is totally inadequate for the needs of a town the size of Blackpool, and it is hoped as a first step to double the number of home helps during the following year and gradually increase the staff to meet the increasing demands of the service.

The following cases were provided with Home Helps during the year :—

Confinement at home :	5
Chronic sick, including aged and infirm :	265
Tuberculosis :	6
Others :	13

At the end of December 1955 Home Helps were attending 163 households.

SECTION 51 — MENTAL HEALTH.

The Health Committee appointed a Mental Health Sub-Committee comprising of eight members of the Council and four co-opted members (a medical practitioner, the Chairman of the Local Executive Council, a representative of the Blackpool Branch of the National Association of Parents and Friends of Backward Children, and a lady). Meetings are held as often as required.

The Deputy Medical Officer of Health is responsible to the Medical Officer of Health for the administration of the Mental Health Services, and also for the ascertainment of defectives, the medical supervision of defectives under Guardianship, the periodic examination of defectives attending the Occupation Centre and the provision of certificates for admission of defectives to Mental Deficiency Hospitals on Petitions. Staffing of the Mental Health Section, employed on full-time duties, consists of two Duly Authorised Officers, a supervisor and two assistant supervisors at the Occupation Centre. In addition there was a Mental Health Worker who retired in July and a female clerk who resigned on the 15th October ; these positions remain to be filled.

Co-ordination with Regional Hospital Boards and Hospital Management Committees. At the request of various mental hospitals and mental deficiency hospitals the following reports have been prepared and submitted by members of the staff :

Case History reports upon patients admitted to Mental Hospitals.

Home reports on patients in mental hospitals and whose discharge is being considered or who are to be released on trial.

Home Reports upon defectives for the purposes of the continuation of an Order detaining the defective in hospital or for Licence or Holiday.

Periodic reports upon defectives on Licence or attaining 21 years of age.

There has been maintained the close co-operation with the visiting psychiatrists attending the Psychiatric Clinic at the Victoria Hospital, with inter-change of information supplying of reports and the visiting of certain patients who have attended at the Clinic.

On the 26th September a meeting was held in the Town Hall between representatives of the Corporation and the Manchester Regional Hospital Board to discuss admissions to Mental and Mental Deficiency Hospitals. The Board put forward for consideration the opening by the Local Authority of "Day Accommodation" for senile patients. At the time of the meeting there were, in the Borough, 29 patients waiting admission to a Mental Hospital and 19 to Mental Deficiency Hospitals.

Voluntary Organisations. It was considered that the staff of the Mental Health Section was adequate to maintain an effective service but arrangements were made with the Blackpool Branch of the National Association of Parents and Friends of Backward Children to staff the Creche. This Association has, throughout the year, been most generous and helpful providing "extras" for the Occupation Centre.

Through the generosity of the Directors of the Tower Company, the children of the Occupation Centre attended the Tower Circus on the 3rd May and afterwards returned to the Centre for a Party. This was a most enjoyable outing for the children.

On the 25th May, through the kindness of Mr. and Mrs. Slack, members of the Parents and Friends Association, the children were taken by motor coach to Silverdale.

The Christmas Party was held in the Centre on the 20th December, when each child was given a gift and the children gave a Fairy Dance.

Cases are referred to the Section from various sources such as medical practitioners, police, probation officers, Psychiatric Clinic, Child Guidance Clinic of the School Medical Service, the Local Education Authority, Welfare Department, Voluntary organisations, etc. During the year 262 new cases were reported to the Section and 40 new cases alleged to be mental defectives. There were 1,164 Domiciliary visits made, 697 were connected with the Lunacy and Mental Treatment Acts, an increase of 115 over 1954. 575 were concerned with interviews under General Enquiries and 115 visiting patients for After-Care having been discharged from Hospitals. The remaining 467 visits were under the provisions of the Mental Deficiency Acts and details are given later in the report. Transport was provided for 36 cases attending hospitals for out-patient electro-convulsion treatment. This treatment is given at Whittingham and Sharoe Green Hospitals and the patients attend once or twice a week as required. By taking this treatment patients most frequently avoid having to go into hospitals therefore saves bed accommodation, which today is important. 176 journeys were made to the hospitals and it has been thought to save expense the treatment should be available at a hospital in or near Blackpool.

Although the visits for After-Care increased by more than 100 per cent. (it is considered this work is most important in helping patients to re-establish themselves in the community life and prevent further breakdowns), the extent of visiting is dependent upon the Staff having sufficient time to make the necessary visits. There is close co-operation in this work with the Disablement Rehabilitation Officers of the Ministry of Labour who have been most helpful in placing persons in suitable employment.

Shortage of hospital accommodation has been one of the major problems during the year especially for senile female patients. Unfortunately the future shows no prospects of improvement unless the Regional Board re-organise the Catchment Area, for the Whittingham area appears to cover a populated area too large for the available hospital accommodation. While the Hospital problems are fully appreciated one must try to realise the home circumstances where there is a person mentally ill possibly of suicidal or dangerous tendencies. In cases of senile patients the strain upon relatives has to be seen before the full effects are understood. It is with sincere regret that there have been patients who have taken their lives before hospital admission could take place.

The acute shortage of hospital accommodation for defectives has still existed and there were 19 on the Waiting List at the end of the year. Admissions totalled 6, one of which was through the Magistrates' Court under Section 8. Short Term Stay was obtained for 6 defectives, there being 12 applications, and the periods of a stay averaged 20 days for each. This scheme is a great help in relieving the strain upon parents and relatives and is much appreciated. Most probably further development of the Scheme would not only give relief to those caring for the defectives but possibly reduce the number of applications for permanent hospital admission.

There were 4 defectives whose Orders of Detention were discharged, 2 were discharged on Licence and there were 8 renewals of Licence. One Guardianship Order was renewed. Removals from the Borough were four.

Lunacy and Mental Treatment Acts, 1890-1930. Under the provisions of these Acts there was a decrease of admissions under "Orders" in 1955 against 1954, namely from 164 to 147. This decrease is attributed to the shortage of beds in the mental hospitals. Admissions of voluntary patients increased from 128 in 1954 to 134 in 1955. It is worthy to note that in 1949 voluntary admissions were 72 and in the same year admissions on "Orders" were 158. There were no admissions under the Magistrates' Court Act, 1952

Admissions of Health Service patients under the various Sections of the Acts are given in the following table :

Mode of Admission	HOSPITAL						TOTAL
	Whittingham	Wesham Park	Sharoe Green	Lancaster Moor	Queen's Park, Blackburn	St. Ebbas, Surrey	
Lunacy Act, 1890 : Section 10 ...	28	7	—	10	—	—	45
Section 21(1) ...	41	42	8	8	1	—	100
Section 20 ...	—	—	—	2	—	—	2
Mental Treatment Act 1920 : Section 1 ...	99	10	1	14	—	1	134
Section 5 ...	1	—	—	1	—	—	2
TOTAL ...	169	68	9	35	1	1	283

Mental Deficiency Acts, 1913-1938. The reporting of defectives during 1955, the disposal of such cases and the classification of defectives on the Authority's register are shown in the following tables :

		Under age 16		Aged 16 and over	
		M.	F.	M.	F.
1. Particulars of cases reported during 1955 :					
(a) Cases at 31st December, 1955, ascertained to be defectives " subject to be dealt with " ...					
Number in which action taken on reports by :—					
(1) Local Education Authorities on children					
(i) While at school or liable to attend school ...	8	4	—	—	—
(ii) On leaving special schools ...	—	—	1	—	—
(iii) On leaving ordinary schools ...	—	—	—	—	—
(2) Police or by Courts ...	—	—	—	—	—
(3) Other sources ...	3	—	4	4	4
(b) Cases reported who were found to be defectives but were not, at 31st December, 1955, regarded as " subject to be dealt with " on any ground ...	1	2	5	1	1
(c) Cases reported who were not regarded as defectives or in which action was incomplete at 31st December, 1955, and are thus excluded from (a) or (b)	1	1	3	2	2
TOTAL ...	13	8	12	7	
2. Disposal of cases reported during 1955 :					
(a) Of the cases ascertained to be defectives " subject to be dealt with " (i.e. at 1 (a)) number :					
(i) Placed under Statutory Supervision ...	10	5	3	2	2
(ii) Placed under Guardianship ...	—	—	—	—	—
(iii) Taken to " Places of Safety " ...	—	—	—	1	1
(iv) Admitted to hospitals ...	1	—	1	1	1
(b) Of the cases not ascertained to be defectives " subject to be dealt with " (i.e. at 1 (b)) number :					
(i) Placed under Voluntary Supervision ...	1	1	5	1	1
(ii) Action unnecessary ...	—	1	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	12	7	9	5	
3. Number of mental defectives for whom care was arranged by the local health authority under Circular 5/52 during 1955 and admitted to :					
(a) National Health Service Hospitals ...	—	1	—	2	2
(b) Elsewhere ...	—	3	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	—	4	—	2	
4. Total cases on Authority's registers at 31/12/55 :					
(i) Under Statutory Supervision ...	20	15	35	31	
(ii) Under Guardianship ...	—	—	1	—	—
(iii) In " Places of Safety " ...	—	—	—	1	1
(iv) In Hospitals ...	6	3	46	39	
(v) Under Voluntary Supervision ...	1	4	18	4	
TOTAL ...	27	22	100	75	
5. Number of defectives under Guardianship on 31st December, 1955, who were dealt with under the provisions of Section 8 or 9, Mental Deficiency Act, 1913, (Included in 4 (ii)) ...		Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
6. Classification of defectives in the Community on 31/12/55 (according to need at that date) :					
(a) Cases included in 4(i)-(iii) in need of hospital care and reported accordingly to the hospital authority :					
(1) In urgent need of hospital care :—					
(i) " cot and chair " cases ...	—	4	—	1	1
(ii) ambulant low grade cases ...	1	1	3	4	
(iii) medium grade cases ...	1	—	—	1	
(iv) high grade cases ...	—	—	—	—	—
Total urgent cases ...	2	5	3	6	
(2) Not in urgent need of hospital care :—					
(i) " cot and chair " cases ...	—	—	—	—	—
(ii) ambulant low grade cases ...	—	1	—	—	—
(iii) medium grade cases ...	1	—	1	—	—
(iv) high grade cases ...	—	—	—	—	—
Total non-urgent cases ...	1	1	1	—	—
TOTAL ...	3	6	4	6	
(b) Of the cases included in items 4(i), (ii) and (v), number considered suitable for :—					
(i) occupation centre ...	21	11	—	—	—
(ii) industrial centre ...	—	—	30	20	
(iii) home training ...	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	21	11	30	20	
(c) Of the cases included in 6(b), number receiving training on 31/12/55 :—					
(i) In occupation centre ...	17	9	8	5	
(ii) In industrial centre ...	—	—	—	—	—
(iii) At home ...	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	17	9	8	5	

In 1954, 17 cases were reported to the Local Health Authority and in 1955, 40 cases were reported. Notifications of cases are received from various sources and when the Local Education Authority give notice the Chief Education Officer forwards Form 2 H.P., giving a history of the case and the reason for notification. When a notification is received the case is visited by the Mental Health Worker who prepares a Case History. Afterwards the Deputy Medical Officer of Health examines the person either at the home or at the Health Centre. Finally, a report is submitted to the Mental Health Sub-Committee which authorises the supervision or other action. Reports are submitted to the Committee of all defectives admitted to hospitals, those who remove from the Borough, and those who have died.

Supervision of Defectives and Guardianship Cases. To defectives under Statutory Supervision and under Guardianship, 205 Domiciliary Visits were made and to defectives under Voluntary Supervision and for General Enquiries there were 127 visits. Co-operation with and assistance to the Mental Deficiency Hospitals has continued to be given and 135 visits were made for the following purposes :—

Completion of Progress Reports on defectives on Licence ...	22
Completion of Home Reports for Section 11, Licence and Holidays	57
Preparation of Case Notes on new cases for admission to Hospitals	15

Occupation Centre and Training of Defectives. On the register of the Occupation Centre at the 31st December, 1955, there were 39, this was an increase of 6 on the previous year. The average daily attendance was 28.2 a reduction of 2.8 on the previous year. Unfortunately during the year there was an outbreak of dysentery and this greatly reduced the average attendance. Transport is provided to bring the defectives to the Centre and then afterwards to take them to their homes. For a charge of 9d. per day mid-day meals are provided through the Education Department School Meals Service.

During the year a Creche was opened for two afternoons per week at the Health Centre in co-operation with the Local Branch of the National Association of Parents and Friends of Handicapped Children. The staffing is carried out by the Association members and the Local Authority provide the necessary transport. The attendance during the year averaged 4.47. By providing the Creche relief is given to the families, mainly the mothers of these children, and although is in the experimental stage has proved successful.

MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS.

The Local Authority Medical Staff continued to carry out a large number of medical examinations for various Departments, and reference must be made to the fact that these medical examinations continue to increase, and, particularly during of the season when seasonal workers are employed, cause a large amount of work to the Department and necessitate additional medical sessions being arranged.

The following table gives some indication of the number and type of medical examinations carried out during the year :—

Entrance to Corporation Superannuation Scheme :	1202
Entrance to other Local Authorities' Superannuation Schemes : ...	2
Fitness for work :	46
Routine medical examinations—Children's Act :	28
Mental Deficiency Acts :	32
Total : ...	1310

CREMATIONS.

The Medical Officer of Health and Deputy Medical Officer of Health are the medical referees for the authorising of cremations under the Cremation Acts. During the year 2703 cremations were authorised at the Blackpool Crematorium, of which 1002 were in respect of Blackpool residents. This is an increase of 116 on the previous twelve months.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936 — REGISTRATION OF NURSING HOMES.

On the 31st December, 1955 there were 9 Nursing Homes registered within the Borough. These Nursing Homes provided 6 maternity beds and 124 beds for medical and surgical cases, i.e. a total of 130 beds. During the year there were 14 re-inspections of these Homes.

The names and addresses of the Nursing Homes registered in this Borough and the beds provided are given below :—

	No. of Beds		
	Maternity	Others	
Ascot Nursing Home, 13 Luton Road	14
Burnlea Nursing Home, 71 Burlington Road	4
Convent of Our Lady of Wisdom, 575 Lytham Road	57
Central Nursing Home, 228-230 Hornby Road	12
Cloverley Nursing Home, 160 Reads Avenue	4
Glenfell Nursing Home, 308 St. Annes Road	2
Rocklands Nursing Home, 49 Bryan Road	14
St. Teresa's Nursing Home, 188 Norbreck Road	10
Sunnyside Nursing Home, 420 Lytham Road	7
	6	124	

Agencies for the Supply of Nurses—Nurses' Acts, 1943-45. During the year there were no applications for registration under the above Acts.

WELFARE SERVICES — NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

The Council's functions under the National Assistance Act, 1948, are provided by a separate Welfare Department, but the Medical Officer of Health has certain functions, particularly in the issuing of a medical certificate in cases where it is necessary to move persons who are aged, infirm, living in insanitary conditions and unable to devote to themselves, and not receiving from other persons, proper care and attention under the provisions of Section 1 (3) of the National Assistance Amendment Act, 1951. During the year ended 31st December, 1955 three such cases were dealt with. Details on page 34A.

Close work was maintained between the two Departments although a unified control would be much more satisfactory from the point of economy in administration, and would avoid the possibility of odd cases falling between two stools, namely where they were a matter of a medical case or a welfare case.

Epileptics and Spastics. No special facilities for epileptics and spastics are provided under the local health services other than those services which are available for the general community.

The Director of Welfare Services informs me that in accordance with the scheme for the provision of welfare services for handicapped persons made under Section 29 of the National Assistance Act, 1948, a register of such persons has been compiled and at 31st December, 1955, there are four adult epileptics and seven adult spastics included in the register.

The cases dealt with under the National Assistance Acts, 1948-1951.

A.T., female aged 83 years. Admitted to Part III accommodation at the Highlands, Wesham. Was living in filthy conditions and insanitary, food rotting, was scattered about the floors and on furniture, was in a dirty and neglected condition, refused to allow anyone to attend to her, alleged that people were stealing from her. Order was made under the principal Act for a period of three months and she died within the three months.

A.A., female aged 73 years. Admitted to Wesham Park Hospital and subsequently she agreed to remain in hospital therefore no further action was taken. Was still in hospital at the end of the year, then having been in hospital for 9 months. Living alone, was in a filthy and neglected condition, the home was in complete disorder, clothing, papers, rotting food and coal ashes scattered over the floors in the downstairs rooms and in the hall, and chambers full of urine were in different parts of the house.

A.C.W., male aged 87 years. Admitted to Wesham Park Hospital as in need of care and attention. He was filthy, his clothing was in rags, was in a very weak physical condition through lack of food, was aggressive, would not let anyone go near him and would strike. He used a bed that only consisted of a flock mattress which was soaked with urine. Stale and rotted food was about the floor of his room.

EPILEPTICS.

At the commencement of 1955 there were eighteen epileptics maintained in epileptic colonies. During the year there was one admission and three discharges, leaving sixteen maintained at 31st December, 1955.

Forty-three epileptics of school age are known to the department ; of these forty are attending ordinary schools, and three at a Residential Special School.

In addition four epileptics of pre-school age are kept under observation by the Health Visitors during their routine visits.

SPASTICS.

Of the twenty-one spastics of school age known to the department, eleven are attending ordinary schools, one the Open Air School and two at a Residential School for physically handicapped children. One child is not at any school but is awaiting admission to a Special School, and three are in hospital Special Schools or in hospital, and three are at home under supervision.

Eight spastics of pre-school age are kept under observation by the Health Visitors of the department.

Blind and Partially Sighted Persons. The Director of Welfare Services informs me that at 31st December, 1955 there are 395 registered blind and 73 partially sighted persons within the Borough.

Two partially sighted children are attending Residential Schools, whilst one is awaiting admission ; nine are at Primary and Secondary Schools and are given special supervision.

One blind child is at present attending a Residential School, but one child is at home, considered to be ineducable on account of other handicaps.

Two blind or partially sighted children of pre-school age known to the department are kept under observation during visits by the Health Visitors.

Follow-up of Registered Blind and Partially Sighted Persons.

	Cause of Disability			
	Cataract	Glaucoma	Retrobulbar Fibroplasia	Others
(i) Number of cases registered during the year in respect of which para. 7 (c) of Forms B.D.8 recommends :				
<i>Blind Persons</i>				
(a) No treatment	5	5	—	15
(b) Treatment (medical, surgical or optical)	8	1	—	13
<i>Partially Sighted</i>				
(c) No treatment	5	2	—	4
(d) Treatment (medical, surgical or optical)	4	—	—	8
(ii) Number of cases at (b) and (d) above which on follow-up action have received treatment.				
<i>Blind Persons</i>	—	1	—	13
<i>Partially Sighted</i>	3	—	—	8

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE BOROUGH.

WATER SUPPLY.

The Authority responsible for the water supply in Blackpool is the Fylde Water Board.

Water supplied to Blackpool is collected at two sources, (a) from watersheds at Barnacre, and (b) at Stocks on the River Hodder, and is satisfactory both in quantity and quality. At both these head works, upland surface water is collected and stored in reservoirs. The watershed at Barnacre is free from human habitation and at Stocks the Fylde Water Board owns the watershed and controls all operations on it. The raw water is stained with peat and is treated with sulphate of alumina before filtration to remove this colour during filtration, and lime water is added after filtration to compensate acidity. Finally the water is sterilised with chlorine. The pH of the filtered water as it leaves the filters is recorded continuously by Multilec pH Recorders. The combined alkalinity, acidity and colour is taken at least daily at various stages in the treatment.

Bacteriological analyses were made of water samples taken monthly from various points in the Borough and these indicate that all samples were satisfactory.

There are 45,983 houses within the Borough and, with the exception of one, all have a piped supply of water. The population supplied, based on the Registrar General's estimate, is 147,200.

SEWERAGE OF THE BOROUGH.

Within the Borough area there are 68,911 waterclosets and a large number of pail closets. No record is maintained of pail closets on showgrounds or in temporary conveniences. A number of cesspools exist in the outlying parts of the town particularly the Marton Moss area. Of the above 265 pail closets and 14 cesspools are emptied regularly by the Cleansing Department.

(1) Works of Sewerage and Sewage Disposal carried out in 1955 :—

(a) Grange Park Estate Extension.

Approximately 1,550 lineal yards of 6 inch to 36 inch diameter sewers laid.

(b) Gynn Screening Chamber.

Construction of chamber and installation of machinery completed.

(c) Common Edge Road/Stanley Road Improvement.

Approximately 130 lineal yards of 6 inch and 9 inch diameter sewers constructed.

(d) Piping Dyke adjacent to Bathurst Avenue.

Approximately 243 lineal yards of 18 inch and 21 inch pipes laid.

Development of Sites for Building Plots, Norkeed Road/Queens Drive :

Approximately 270 lineal yards of 9 inch sewers laid.

Marton Moss Drainage — Stage 1 :

Approximately 80 lineal yards of 36 inch diameter sewer laid to provide main drainage for existing properties.

(2) Works of Sewerage and Sewage Disposal proposed to be carried out in 1956 :

(a) Grange Park Estate Extension.

Approximately 2,630 lineal yards of 6 inch to 36 inch diameter sewers to be laid.

- (b) **Marton Moss Drainage — Stage 1.**
Approximately 2,290 lineal yards of 6 inch to 36 inch diameter sewers to be laid to provide main drainage for existing properties.
- (c) **Lennox Gate Pumping Station.**
The installation of a modified pump unit (completed).
- (d) **Ansdell Road Pumping Station.**
Provision of automatic screen.
- (e) **South Park Pumping Station.**
Construction of new 18 inch diameter rising main, approximate length 310 lineal yards.
- (f) **Buttermere Avenue/Paddock Drive.**
Construction of approximately 620 lineal yards of 15 inch to 18 inch diameter sewers to improve drainage facilities in this area.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

This is carried out by the Cleansing Department of the Corporation.

I am informed by the Director of Public Cleansing that the amount of refuse collected by his Department again showed an increase over the previous year. Further building development and an exceptionally good season due to the best 'holiday weather' for many years no doubt accounted for this increase.

The amount of refuse dealt with at the Refuse Disposal Works was 32,353 tons, whilst in addition 22,990 tons were tipped away, and 1,330 tons of night soil were removed.

Approximately 500 tons of sewage were removed from sumps, etc. at the Royal Lancashire Agricultural Show.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE BOROUGH.

This section of the Annual Report, and the following sections dealing with Housing, Rodent Control and Disinfestation, General Food Supply and Prosecutions, give details of the variety of functions undertaken by the Chief Sanitary Inspector and his staff in connection with the environmental health services.

COMPLAINTS RECEIVED:

VISITS AND INSPECTIONS DURING YEAR:

Houses (Full Inspections) :

Ash Receptacles :

Satisfactory	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	33
Unsatisfactory	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	303
Reinspections under Notice	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	356
Number of Galvanised Bins provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	804

Food and Drugs Act :

Butchers' Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	440
Cafes and Snackbars	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	125
Catering Licences	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Dairies and Milk Shops under Milk and Dairies Regulations	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	419
Fish Frying Shcps	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	89
Hotels and Licences Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Ice Cream Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	320
Food Manufacturing Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	82
Food Inspections and Food Shcps	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1583
Foreshore Food Stalls	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	63

Miscellaneous :

Abattoirs	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	149
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	352
Basements (excluding full inspections)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	189
Cinemas, Dance Halls, Theatres, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	23
Common Lodging Houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	68
Drainage Survey	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	122
Dwelling Houses (Housing Act, 1936)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Dwelling Houses (Public Health Act, 1936)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	290
Dwelling Houses (Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Dwelling Houses re : Housing Improvement Grants	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	31
Factories	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	844
Infectious Diseases (including Food Poisoning and Dysentery)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6663
Land and Camp Sites	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	283
Municipal Tenancy Applicants	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	955
Nuisances (first inspections)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4048
Nuisances (re-inspections under notice)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7523
Offensive Trades	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
Piggeries	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	28
Public Conveniences	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Refuse Tips	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Roadways, Footpaths, Back Streets and Passages	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	150
Sand and Foreshore	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Schools and Churches	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Shops (Shops Act, 1950)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1311
Smoke Abatement	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Smoke Observations	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	104
Stables and Manure Heaps	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	98
Swimming Baths	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
Temporary Structures (excluding full inspections)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	204
Town Planning and Building Bye-laws	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	170
Watercourses and Ponds	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	109
Water Supply	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	46
Work in progress	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	822
Unclassified	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	211

NUMBER OF HOUSES WHERE SANITARY DEFECTS WERE FOUND ... 352

NUMBER OF HOUSES WHERE SANITARY DEFECTS WERE REMEDIED							381
Defects remedied as per verbal notice	...	...	...	...	...	...	102
Defects remedied as per preliminary notice	...	...	...	...	...	...	206
Defects remedied as per statutory notice	...	...	...	...	...	...	239
NOTICES SERVED FOR THE ABATEMENT OF NUISANCES:							
Verbal	...	...	...	...	...	...	136
Preliminary	...	...	...	...	...	...	348
Statutory	...	...	...	...	...	...	335
HOUSE DRAINS TESTED:							
New Houses :							
Satisfactory	...	...	...	...	...	...	792
Unsatisfactory on first test	...	...	...	...	...	...	110
Rendered satisfactory after first test	...	...	...	...	...	...	115
Old Houses :							
First Test—satisfactory	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
First Test—unsatisfactory	...	...	...	...	...	...	44
Tested during relaying	...	...	...	...	...	...	37
Final Test satisfactory	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
DRAINS:							
Relaid, disconnected and ventilated	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Repaired, unblocked and cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	...	1549
New gullies fixed	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Soil pipes repaired or fixed	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Cesspools abolished	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
WATERCLOSETS:							
New w.c's fixed in lieu of privies, pail closets and defective w.c's	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Unblocked	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Flushing fittings repaired and water provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
New pails provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
WASTE PIPES:							
New slop waste pipes fixed	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
New rainwater downpipes fixed	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Rain water pipes and roof gutters repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	68
Slop waste pipes repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Water service pipes repaired, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Bath, Lavatory, Slopsink and Rainwater Pipes Disconnected over Gullies	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
MISCELLANEOUS:							
Accumulations removed	...	...	...	...	...	...	41
Animals Removed from Improper Situations	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Back yards cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Back yards reformed with flags, concrete or asphalt	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Back yards repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Courts or passages cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Courts or passages reformed or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Dampness remedied	...	...	...	...	...	...	38
Fire ranges re-set, repaired or provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
Food Stores provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Houses disinfested :							
D.D.T. and special methods	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Insecticide	...	...	...	...	...	...	11

Manholes, gullies, back streets, etc., reported to Borough Surveyor ...	10
Manholes, gullies, back streets, etc. reported to Cleansing Department	34
Manure receptacles abolished	—
Name and Address of Landlord inserted in Rent Book	1
New damp proof course fixed	1
New floor laid or repaired	18
New slcp sinks fixed	—
Premises cleansed	6
Roof repaired	78
Rooms ventilated	1
Various repairs	134
Watercourses cleansed	7

Common Lodging Houses. There are two registered Common Lodging Houses in the Borough. The total accommodation provided by these establishments is as follows :—

13 Eden Street	...	...	160 adults and 1 child
12 Seed Street	...	...	56 adults and 1 child

Both houses are for males only, there being no accommodation of this type for females in the town.

During the year 68 visits were made to the two houses. Both these buildings are over 80 years old and it is only by constant inspections and heavy repairs that the premises can be kept in a hygienic state

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

Once again the department has been concerned with the serious aspect of atmospheric pollution caused by the use of steam boilers in connection with the steam sterilisation of the soil in greenhouses in the Marton area. Although the number of complaints have been reduced considerably, nevertheless, there is no doubt that in the using of this type of machine for this purpose it is practically impossible to avoid smoke emissions. However, constant investigations are being carried out and it is considered that serious nuisances will be eliminated in due course.

No complaints have been received during the year in respect of the bakery where fuel oil is used for heating purposes and from which a nuisance had arisen from the emission of minute particles of carbon and oil from the chimney which caused damage to washing hung out by householders in the vicinity. This improvement has been the result of numerous investigations by the department, the company's engineers and the fuel efficiency experts.

In two instances the department had cause to investigate complaints of grit emissions from factory premises. In one case, a new and expensive grit arrestor was installed and, in the other, the department's advice on the management of the boiler plant was carried out with the result that no further complaints have been received to date.

Complaints of a smoke nuisance from a number of residents of dwelling houses in the vicinity of the British Railways sidings received the department's attention and it was found that the smoke complained of was not due to emissions from one individual engine but to the cumulative effect of a large number of engines shunted into the sidings. Representations were made to the railway authorities and further investigations showed that conditions had improved considerably.

In an older part of the town in which dwelling houses predominate there are also a number of industrial premises and complaints were received from a number of the residents in the area of smoke and grit emissions from the chimneys of these factories. A large number of observations were carried out, but the department was unable to prove a statutory nuisance within the meaning of Section 101 of the Public Health Act, 1936. However, all the secretaries of the firms concerned were circularised asking for their co-operation in reducing the smoke emissions from their factory chimneys, and it is pleasing to note that some improvement was apparent thereafter.

Sanitary Conditions of Theatres and Music Halls. There have been no changes in the numbers of places of public entertainment during the year, and these are as follows :

Cinemas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Cinemas (also used for variety, etc.)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Variety, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Ballrooms	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Ice Drome	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

The whole of these premises were inspected and particular attention was paid not only to the dressing-room accommodation, but also to the sanitary accommodation and washing facilities for the use of patrons. The inspections showed that the facilities provided were of a high standard and in no case was any action necessary by the Department. Fortunately, in Blackpool we have progressive minded managements who apparently consider that to provide suitable and adequate facilities for the staff, artistes and patrons is good business.

Cleansing of Persons. Facilities for the cleansing of persons and their clothing, etc. are provided for at the Infectious Diseases Hospital by arrangement with the Regional Hospital Board, but on only a few occasions have these facilities been required during the year.

Sanitary Accommodation in Restaurants, Cafes and Snack Bars. The department's efforts to secure the provision of sufficient and satisfactory sanitary accommodation and washing facilities for premises of this nature in establishments having a seating capacity of 200 patrons or over have, with the exception of a small number of instances, been successful. Owing to staff shortage, very little progress has been made in respect of premises with seating capacity of less than 200.

Factories. 844 inspections of factories were made by the Sanitary Inspectors during the year, and in the course of these inspections 21 contraventions of the Factories Act were noted. In 13 instances action was taken informally and it was necessary in 8 cases only for written notices to be served on the occupier of the premises. No legal proceedings had to be instituted. In so far as this department is aware, there are no Blackpool firms employing outworkers either within or without the Borough. As a result of notifications from other authorities 4 inspections of outworkers premises were made and in all cases the nature of the work was the making of wearing apparel and conditions were satisfactory.

The following matters were referred to H.M. Inspector of Factories—details of 6 new factories and 16 factories discontinued during the year.

INSPECTION OF FACTORIES

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	62	101	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	858	735	5	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out - workers' premises)	8	8	3	—
TOTAL	928	844	8	—

PART VIII OF FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 AND 1948.

OUTWORK (SECTIONS 110 AND 111)

Nature of Work (1)	Section 110			Section 111		
	No. of out-workers in August list required by Sect. 110 (1) (c) (3)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council (4)	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists (5)	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises (6)	Notices served (7)	Prosecutions (8)
Wearing apparel Making, etc. Cleaning and washing	2	—	—	—	—	—

DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found						No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Not Remedied 1954	Found 1955	Remedied 1955	Not Remedied 1955	Referred to H.M. Inspector	Referred by H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ...	2	5	3	4	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ...	2	—	2	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.8)							
(a) insufficient ...	—	5	3	2	—	2	—
(b) unsuitable or defective ...	16	9	14	11	—	3	—
(c) not separate for sexes ...	2	1	1	2	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ...	1	1	2	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	23	21	25	19	—	5	—

FACTORIES ON REGISTER (SECTION 8(3)) AT THE END OF THE YEAR

Trade	Mechanical Power	Non-Mechanical Power
Making or Repair of Wearing Apparel	115	29
Bakehouses	183	2
Preparation of other Foods and Drinks	103	1
Building Trades	76	5
Furniture Making, etc.	30	5
Conveyances and Engineering	164	4
Photography, Printing and Bookbinding	50	6
Other Trades	120	10
Laundries	17	—
Total No. of Factories on Register	858	62

Shops. 1,310 first inspections and 6 re-inspections have been made to ensure that the provisions of Section 38 of the Shops Act, 1950 are being complied with. No statutory notices were served but one warning letter was sent. The under-mentioned table gives details of classified defects ascertained by the sanitary inspectors and defects remedied during the year.

CLASSIFIED DEFECTS				
	Found		Repaired or remedied	
	Nil	Defective	Provided	Repaired
Sanitary conveniences	1	2	1	2
Washing facilities	1	—	1	—
Lighting	—	—	—	—
Ventilation	—	—	—	—
Temperature	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	2	2	2	2

Offensive Trades. The following offensive trades exist within the Borough :

Tripe Boilers	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Gut Scrapers	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Rag and Bone Depots	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Fat Melter	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

With the exception of the rag and bone dealers' depots all the above are located within the confines of the Public Slaughterhouse, Talbot Road, Blackpool, and are under the daily observation of the Superintendent. Bones are collected direct from butchers' shops and taken to a factory at Bispham for conversion to fertilisers.

Camps, Caravans and Wooden Structures. The authorised camping sites in the Borough are as follows :—

- Preston New Road District—(a) about 10 vans ; (b) about 20 vans.
- Highfield Road District (permanent site)—94 vans.
- Squires Gate—about 22 vans.
- Stanley Road—about 40 vans.
- Common Edge Road—varying from 25 to 65 vans.

These are kept under constant supervision and a reasonable standard of hygiene is maintained. During the year the Local Authority have had to take action for the removal of caravans which have been placed on unauthorised sites. The acute housing shortage has some bearing on the desire of families to resort to the use of this type of dwelling as a means of permanent habitation, and although one must sympathise with these people, nevertheless it is undesirable that indiscriminate siting of caravans be allowed for obvious reasons.

CLEARANCE AREAS.

The position at the end of 1955 was as follows:—

Area	Date of Representation	Confirmation by Ministry of Health	No. of Dwellings removed, vacated or demolished	No. still Occupied	No. of Families
Daggers Hall Lane No. 1	9.2.38	30.6.39	9		Remaining occupied structure now removed
Abbey Road No. 2	9.2.38	30.6.39	1	1	1 (2 persons)
Waterloo Road No. 2	9.2.38	30.6.39	6		Remaining structure removed. Area cleared
Sedbergh Avenue No. 1	9.2.38	30.6.39	2	1	1 (1 person)

HOUSING

Housing Statistics

1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR:

(i) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects under Public Health or Housing Acts	352
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	733
(ii) (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-heading (i) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925)	13
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	29
(iii) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation (including clearance areas)	4
(iv) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the previous sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for habitation	348

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES:

Number of defective dwellings rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or the officers	186
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3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR:

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:	
(i) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	4
(ii) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:	
(a) By owners	9
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ...	—
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:	
(i) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	196

(ii)	Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :											
(a)	By owners	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	111
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	143
(c)	Proceedings under Section 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :											
(i)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
(ii)	Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
(d)	Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :											
(i)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
(ii)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—

PART 1 OF THE HOUSING REPAIRS AND RENTS ACT, 1954 (SLUM CLEARANCE).

After receiving a report from the Medical Officer of Health and the Chief Sanitary Inspector, the Local Authority informed the Minister of Housing and Local Government that the Council estimated that 70 houses required to be dealt with under the Act as being unfit, and that they proposed to deal with all such houses within the 5 year programme.

Some of these houses have been dealt with under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936, and Section 10 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953, and it is proposed that in the first year's programme 20 premises will have been dealt with in this manner.

Overcrowding. The extent of overcrowding in the Borough is unknown with any degree of exactitude, and only a complete survey would present the Local Authority with a true picture of the position. When serious cases of overcrowding are discovered, the facts in every instance, are reported to the Related Health Services Committee, and in those cases where the occupiers are eligible for a municipal tenancy, the Estates and Housing Committee are most sympathetic.

Military Huts. There are still two military hutment sites used as temporary housing accommodation in the town, namely :—

- (1) St. Annes Road.
- (2) Stanley Park East.

The most unsatisfactory one is situated under heading (2), and the Local Authority has prepared a scheme for submission to the appropriate Ministry for demolition of these structures in the following order of priority :—

- (1) Stanley Park East.
- (2) St. Annes Road.

Allocation of Municipal Tenancies. Responsibility for the allocation of all municipal tenancies lies with the Estates and Housing Department, but close liaison exists between that department and the Public Health Department with regard to families living under unsuitable conditions. Detailed reports are supplied in each case.

The following information regarding the various types of municipal houses erected since re-commencement of building since the last war has been furnished by the Borough Treasurer.

Permanent—1 bedroom	...	...	...	...	...	262
Permanent—2 bedrooms	...	...	...	...	...	373
Permanent—3 bedrooms	...	...	...	...	...	1664
Permanent—4 bedrooms	...	...	..	...	...	82
Temporary bungalows	...	...	...	...	...	343

325 families were re-housed during the year and as at 31st December, 1955, the number of persons on the waiting list for tenancy of municipal houses was 3,238.

A Points scheme for the allocation of Municipal Houses has been in operation for some time, but an amended scheme, shown below, was introduced in August 1955.

Details of the Points Scheme for the allocation of tenancies.

(i) Points shall be awarded as stated :

For	Points Awarded
A. Period since date of application (not prior to date of marriage)	30 points to every application made in 1945 or earlier and 2 points less for each year following 1945.
B. Period of residence in Blackpool	1 point for each complete 5 years up to a maximum of 15 years consecutive residence (husband and wife residence) with an additional grant of 1 point for husband and wife for any period of consecutive residence before January 1939. A widow or widower shall be entitled to the points which the deceased husband or wife would have received had they been alive. Maximum : 8 points.
C. Number of children	2 points for each child irrespective of age.
D. Bedroom deficiency	1 bedroom : man, wife and child under 3 years—No points. 1 bedroom : man, wife and child of 3 years or over—5 points. 1 bedroom : man, wife and 2 children of any age—10 points. 1 bedroom : man, wife and 3 or more children—15 points. 2 bedrooms : for each deficient bedroom—5 points.
E. Living accommodation	<p>(i) Combined room, bedsitting room or caravan—5 points.</p> <p>(ii) Shared living room : Total number of occupants sharing living room = 4 or less—5 points. For each additional occupant—1 point.</p>

		(iii) Age or infirmity of occupants with whom accommodation is shared. To be dealt with under Section G (Special hardship).
F. Service in H.M. Forces (including the Merchant Navy) between 3rd September, 1939 and 5th August, 1945		Applications received after 1st January, 1955—No points. Applications received before 1st January, 1955 : Applicant or wife (but not both) to receive 1 point for each complete year of service between 3rd September 1939 and 5th August 1945. A widow whose husband was killed on active service during this period to receive 5 points in addition to any points she may have for her own service in H.M. Forces.
G. Special hardship or circumstances (To be assessed after hearing Medical Officer of Health's advice where illness or physical disability is involved)		1 to 15 points added for anything not provided for under A to F.
	(i) Pulmonary tuberculosis, Asthma, Bronchitis, Physical disability.	To be assessed by the Medical Officer of Health on evidence provided by a medical certificate.
	(ii) Age or physical infirmity of relations with whom accommodation is shared.	
	(iii) Sub-standard accommodation.	
	(iv) Separation of husband and wife due to lack of adequate accommodation.	Points to be awarded by specific recommendation of the Estates and Housing Committee.
	(v) High rentals being paid by applicants in order to enjoy reasonable accommodation and where such rents are beyond their normal means.	

Residential qualification

An application may be made by any person who resides or is employed in the area of the local authority but no application will be considered until it has been registered for at least twelve months. In order to be eligible for a tenancy, an applicant or his wife must either :

- (a) reside within the area of the local authority and have resided within that area for at least the past twelve months, and/or

(b) be employed in the area of the local authority and have been so emp'oyed for at least the past twelve months. (The husband's employment only will count for this purpose).

No points will be awarded to any application until the employment or residential qualification has been attained.

RODENT CONTROL.

The continuous search of land and premises for rodent infestation during the year entailed visits to 2613 properties, summarized as follows :—

- 1206 Business Premises.
- 1050 Dwelling Houses.
- 357 Open Spaces.

Of these, 83 premises were found to be infested. Orders for disinfection were received in all cases from the persons responsible, and the work was duly carried out. It is pleasing to report that the cordial relationship existing between the department and the general public has been maintained during the past year. In addition, the helpful co-operation of the Lancashire Agricultural Executive Committee, the Nationalized Industries, and the Officers of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (Infestation Division) has been much appreciated.

SURFACE INFESTATION.

Under this heading 1267 complaints of rodent infestation were received or discovered. During the year, 220 premises were proved clear by test-baiting ; 1064 premises comprising 403 business premises, and 661 dwelling houses received treatment. Premises so treated included hospitals, theatres, cinemas, hotels, warehouses and shops. In addition the abattoirs, tips, land, refuse disposal works, water-courses, pumping stations, and other premises belonging to the Local Authority received periodic inspection and treatment where necessary.

During the year the rodent control staff engaged on surface infestations made 5388 visits.

Field trials, to confirm the laboratory tests on new materials used in rodent control were carried out during the year. One series of experiments was carried out using Warfarin Sodium salts as a liquid rodenticide. Sodium salt dissolves very easily in water, and theoretically, if water baiting points are placed throughout the infested area, particularly when conditions are dry, and there is little moisture content in food, a good kill will be achieved. This form of rodent control is stated to be most efficacious in grain stores.

In practice it was found that there is an increased danger from Warfarin used in this form, as animals, other than rodents, can take more warfarin by drinking the water bait, than by eating a baiting point of the more orthodox warfarin and oatmeal. As the cost of the standard warfarin, and the warfarin sodium salt treatments are roughly equal, and in view of the greater hazard involved, the department decided to end the tests, until further information is available.

Another series of tests were used to confirm the good opinion gained in laboratory tests during 1954, of the use of technical white oil and castor sugar when added to Warfarin in a pinhead oatmeal base. The field trials were satisfactory, and this technique will be used by the department in future, whenever an infestation of special difficulty arises. It also appears possible that the addition of technical white oil may inhibit the lipase enzyme responsible for rancidity in oatmeal, and if this proves to be so, under prolonged usage, it will effect a considerable saving in cost.

In the annual report of Pest Control for 1954, the attention of the members of the Related Health Services Committee was drawn to the potential danger of mink escaping from captivity and forming wild colonies. As a direct result of this report the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (Infestation Division) and the Lancashire Agriculture Executive Committee, are to investigate certain problems involved. A meeting of Officers of the L.A.E.C. and Officers of the department was held in Blackpool during November, and the department promised the fullest co-operation in this matter.

RODENT CONTROL IN SEWERS.

The approved sewer treatments were carried out during the year as follows:—

CLASS	NO. OF MANHOLES	COMMENCED	COMPLETED	BAIT BASE	POISON
Maintenance...	248	22.2.55	8.3.55	Bread Mash	Arsenious Oxide
10% Test ...	603	31.5.55	6.7.55	Sausage Rusk	—
Maintenance...	419	27.9.55	13.10.55	Sausage Rusk	Zinc Phosphide

A Divisional Inspector of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries Infestation Control Division, was present at each stage of the above treatments, and certified that the correct procedure was adopted.

SUMMARY OF VISITS DURING 1955.

Continuous Search	...	...	...	2613
Surface Infestations	...	...	...	5388
Sewer Treatments ...	...	...	...	3207
				11208

INSECT INFESTATIONS.

Treatment and/or advice has been given as a result of the following number of complaints—838, which were classified as follows:—

		1st Visits	Revisits	Total Visits
Vermin—Bugs, Lice, Fleas	...	223	27	250
Cockroach	...	274	183	457
Steamflies	...	14	18	32
Ants	...	118	41	159
Moths	...	12	5	17
Wood Borers	...	101	21	105
Flies	...	16	5	10
Food Pests	...	9	1	2
Other Pests	...	71	12	83
		838	313	1115

HAZARDS OF PESTICIDES TO MAN.

Since 1950 many new toxic compounds for the control of pests have become available to local authorities. The action and significance of just a few poisons has been noted in previous reports i.e. antu in the form of tracking dust, organo-phosphorus insecticides, and dieldrin in synthetic resin.

These and many more have been investigated, not only regarding their efficiency as control measures, but also the possibility of hazards arising from their use by other than trained personnel.

That such hazards exist, and that the study of the problems involved is of grave importance is recognized by the publication of "Toxic hazards of Pesticides to Man," by the World Health Organization 1953, and the reports in 1951, and 1953 of the Working Party on "Toxic Chemicals," by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. Some of the problems to be solved are listed as under.

(a) Difficulties in assessing hazards.

An assessment of the hazards to consumers of food, etc., containing even small traces of pesticide is very difficult. At the present time there is no evidence that the ingestion of small quantities of the pesticides in common use has given rise to any symptoms of poisoning in man. On the other hand, no one is yet in a position to state with confidence that the ingestion of small amounts of a compound like D.D.T. over a period of years, would be entirely harmless.

(b) Need to balance risk against advantages.

In the light of existing knowledge, the department follows a policy of enlightened caution. The advantage of using a pesticide, as represented by increased efficiency must be set against the hypothetical risk incurred. Meanwhile it is essential to study how hazards may be reduced by better control.

(c) Control of residues by correct application.

The most important factor in residue control lies in the proper application of the materials. Correct instructions for use should be available from the manufacturers and these instructions should include provision for avoiding residues, as far as possible by relating the amount of material to the area coverage under normal conditions. The next factor is the proper education of the pest control officer, so that he is made aware of the importance of avoiding residues as far as possible.

(d) Control of residues by Pure Food Laws.

In many countries there are some basic laws governing the purity of food, and it would be possible under these laws to ban a food containing any pesticide, on the ground that the food contained a poisonous substance. Where it is impracticable to ensure that a food is free from any foreign material, permitted limits or tolerances are set up. In a similar way, tentative limits based on expert opinion are used in Great Britain. Such recommendations do not imply a legal limit, but express a consensus of expert opinion. Because of uncertainty about hazards that may or may not be in process of being incurred, it would seem to be the only satisfactory method of dealing with the situation at present.

(e) Control of residues by chemical analysis of food.

With either tentative or legal limits there remains the need for a means of providing the evidence of contamination. For this purpose it is necessary to develop reliable methods of analysis, but this is proving to be very difficult as more and more chemicals of increasing complexity and little-known properties are released for use in pest control. The problem of residue analysis is mainly concerned with the chlorinated-hydrocarbon group of insecticides. D.D.T. and B.H.C. analysis has existed for some time, and a vast amount of information about their behaviour is known. Methods are being worked out for aldrin, dieldrin, and chlordane. None as yet exist for toxaphene and other pesticides in this group.

(f) Education in Residue Control.

In view of the hazard potential and the necessity for further study, it is interesting to note that Blackpool is one of the few provincial centres where such education is available. In 1953 the Technical College commenced evening classes in the "Technology of Pest Control." This is usually a three years course leading up to the intermediate and final examination of the "City and Guilds of London Institute." It is pleasing to report that three intermediate and five final certificates have already been awarded.

UNUSUAL INFESTATIONS DURING 1955.

1. At a small semi-detached dwelling house in Layton, a severe outbreak of minute jumping insects led the occupiers to believe that they had an infestation of fleas. Much time, money and effort was spent in an effort to eradicate the pests, without success. On notification, the department identified the insects as

Springtails, (Collembola). These creatures are cosmopolitan, being found in soil, rotting wood, under the bark of trees, etc. Many of them have an abdominal appendage which enables them to leap through the air, and this is the reason for the common name of the group. It is not usual for springtails to infest houses, in fact, this is only the second locally recorded infestation in twenty years. The department advised the occupier to use a 2.5% Chlordane in Kerosene solution. This proved successful and the infestation was cleared.

2. At a large house in the St. Annes Road area, the sudden appearance of huge numbers of small dark coloured beetles on the walls and wooden ceiling of the basement, caused the owner to believe an infestation of death watch, or other wood boring insects existed. The department was asked for assistance, and it was discovered that the insects were Pine Beetles (*Hylastes ater*) an insect listed as one of the most destructive pests of coniferous woodlands. The sudden emergence of the insects was traced to five tons of fuel logs stored in the basement, and numbers of the creatures were seen to emerge during the inspection.

A D.D.T./Lindane fumigation was successful in clearing up the infestation and as these insects only attack growing timber, no further trouble is anticipated.

3. The hot dry summer of 1955 was responsible for a large number of complaints of small black flies swarming in first floor rooms. Swarms of 2000 to 3000 were not uncommon. On inspection the insects proved to be *Thaumatomyia Notata*, a specie that commonly hibernates indoors. They breed in the roots of grasses, and are quite harmless, though a nuisance. There is no known way of stopping them coming in, and the only thing is to kill them off as quickly as possible.

A D.D.T. or B.H.C. insecticide on the window sills and the surrounding area will destroy many of them that settle before entering. Indoors an Aerosol may be better, so as to avoid any damage to fabrics or decorations.

As all infestations were first floor rooms, and that open windows were common to all floors of the houses concerned, one may assume that swarms of *Thaumatomyia Notata* move at a more or less uniform distance from the ground, depending on temperature at the time of migration.

During the year 291 insects, mites, etc., were brought to or sent to the department for identification, and/or advice on measures of control.

NORTH WESTERN REPRESENTATIVE COMMITTEE ON RODENT CONTROL.

During the period under review, there have been two meetings of the North Western Representative Committee on Rodent Control. The first meeting on February 4th, 1955, was held at Preston, and the second on September 2nd, 1955, was held at the Town Hall, Blackpool. Mr. Priestley has again been co-opted as a member of the Regional Consultative Committee, which now covers all districts north of the Ribble, and which meets twice a year at Fulwood.

These meetings ensure uniformity of administration and develop the spirit of co-operation between all adjacent authorities.

RODENT CONTROL SUMMARY, JANUARY - DECEMBER, 1955.

CONTINUOUS SEARCH ANALYSIS OF PREMISES EXAMINED (SURVEY)				SURFACE INFESTATION — TYPE OF						TYPE OF PREMISES TREATED				RODENT CONTROL SEWERS		
Month	Business Premises	Dwelling Houses	Open Agricultural Premises	No. of complaints of Infestations discovered	Premises proved clear by Test Baiting	Test Bait only	No. of premises treated with poison	For Rats	For Mice	Business Premises	Dwelling Houses	No. of Visits	Annual 10% Test	Mainten- ance Treatment	Bait and Poison Used	
Jan.	178	89	6	273	78	11	3	64	9	55	37	27	429			
Feb.	80	65	5	150	68	11	—	59	10	49	20	39	388	22.2.55 to 8.3.55	Bread Mash and Arsenious Oxide	
Mar.	86	55	10	151	88	4	5	79	20	59	30	49	450			
Apr.	88	61	38	187	53	15	—	53	14	39	18	35	345			
May	114	68	34	216	104	5	—	99	24	75	37	62	391	31.5.55 to 6.7.55	Sausage Fusk	
June	111	99	24	234	71	10	—	61	15	46	30	31	271			
July	93	79	37	209	129	17	—	112	39	73	47	65	436			
Aug.	87	85	15	187	170	19	—	161	44	107	51	100	604			
Sep.	96	91	26	212	163	39	—	124	26	98	39	85	595	27.9.55 to 13.10.55	Sausage Rusk and Zinc Phosphide	
Oct.	103	102	33	238	130	35	—	95	39	56	36	50	484			
Nov.	66	143	46	254	112	21	—	91	27	64	26	65	497			
Dec.	105	113	84	302	101	23	2	76	21	55	32	44	506			
	1206	1050	357	2613	1267	210	10	1064	288	776	403	661	5388			

VERMIN AND INSECT SUMMARY, 1955.

Month	No. of Complaints	Cockroaches			Steam Flies			Ants.			Moths			Wood boring Insects			Flies			Vernin: bugs, lice, fleas			Food Pests			Other Pests			Insects brought to Office		Visits		Total Visits	
		1st	Rev.	1st	Rev.	1st	Rev.	1st	Rev.	1st	Rev.	1st	Rev.	1st	Rev.	1st	Rev.	1st	Rev.	1st	Rev.	1st	Rev.	1st	Rev.	1st	Rev.	1st	Rev.	1st	Rev.			
Jan.	45	12	4	3	3	—	—	8	1	—	—	—	—	16	1	—	—	3	1	0	45	10	55	10	55	10	55	10	55	10	55			
Feb.	37	12	10	—	—	2	—	—	5	2	—	—	15	1	—	—	3	—	—	5	37	15	52	15	52	15	52	15	52	15	52			
Mar.	60	16	8	—	—	8	3	—	—	6	—	—	—	21	1	—	—	11	2	18	62	14	76	14	76	14	76	14	76	14	76			
Apr.	70	27	20	—	—	5	1	1	—	7	1	1	—	24	5	2	—	6	—	20	73	27	100	27	100	27	100	27	100	27	100			
May	80	25	25	—	—	18	6	5	3	11	1	1	—	18	2	—	—	6	—	37	84	37	121	37	121	37	121	37	121	37	121			
June	66	32	22	—	—	3	4	1	—	9	—	1	1	18	—	—	—	6	—	—	34	70	27	97	27	97	27	97	27	97	27	97		
July	75	19	13	1	2	17	3	—	—	10	4	—	—	21	5	1	—	7	2	27	76	29	105	29	105	29	105	29	105	29	105			
Aug.	85	29	20	1	3	19	7	—	—	12	3	—	—	15	7	—	—	9	4	38	85	44	129	44	129	44	129	44	129	44	129			
Sept.	85	28	17	3	5	24	9	1	—	10	1	6	—	10	1	1	—	3	1	31	95	35	130	35	130	35	130	35	130	35	130			
Oct.	80	23	19	2	2	16	3	3	—	13	4	4	4	23	3	1	—	5	1	32	90	36	126	36	126	36	126	36	126	36	126			
Nov.	62	23	15	2	3	2	3	—	—	6	2	3	—	24	1	3	—	7	1	24	70	25	95	25	95	25	95	25	95	25	95			
Dec.	48	28	10	2	—	1	—	1	2	4	2	—	—	0	—	—	—	1	—	6	—	16	51	14	65	14	65	14	65	14	65	14	65	
Totals	802	274	183	14	18	118	41	12	6	101	21	16	5	223	27	0	1	71	12	291	638	313	1151	313	1151	313	1151	313	1151	313	1151			

GENERAL FOOD SUPPLY.

Meat Inspection. The only slaughtering facilities provided in the Borough are at the Public Abattoirs which are owned by the local authority who are responsible for the administration and supervision and for all meat inspection. This slaughterhouse has proved to be adequate to meet the demands of the County Borough area and there is no doubt that a large number of the animal's slaughtered there greatly assist in augmenting the supplies of the surrounding districts.

During the year, the alterations to the pig slaughtering establishment were completed and these facilities have greatly assisted in the humane handling and killing of the pigs and also improved the working conditions of the slaughtermen. In carrying out these alterations, it was necessary to use some of the existing pig lairage space, and the Ministry have given their approval for the Local Authority to erect a new pig lairage which it is hoped will be completed during the next year.

The new casualty slaughterhouse has also been completed and a new gut scraping establishment has been built which is now working to full capacity.

The undermentioned tables show (a) the number of animals which have been slaughtered during the last 15 years, (b) details of carcases inspected and condemned during 1955, and (c) quantities of meat condemned and reason for condemnation :—

Year	Cows	Heifers	Bullocks	Bulls	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Total
1941	2301	2433	2998	187	5034	48261	4192	65406
1942	2109	2751	3895	181	8081	62171	1144	80332
1943	2532	2200	3758	183	10444	48843	696	68755
1944	2678	2138	2435	170	9544	45627	691	63283
1945	2837	2686	4462	192	10764	40450	1258	62649
1946	4075	2301	4968	154	11671	54015	607	77881
1947	3224	2273	4093	108	7929	24932	290	42849
1948	4075	1938	3397	129	7589	36015	550	53693
1949	4610	2230	2691	204	6202	34276	711	50924
1950	5606	4127	3240	303	7257	36593	2032	59167
1951	5361	5119	3376	294	7408	34885	4248	60661
1952	3749	4546	2889	175	7477	38212	7663	64711
1953	5719	3205	3164	213	5198	46161	7493	71153
1954	3972	4883	3021	118	3019	59369	15750	90132
1955	2126	4917	4249	39	1358	47851	18087	78627

MEAT CONDEMNED

Reason for condemnation	lbs.	Reason for condemnation	lbs.		
			Brought forward	...	59307
Abscessed	7952	Gangrenous	...	...	51
Actino	745	Immature	...	...	289
Adhesions	16	Inflammation	...	...	85
Anaemia	252	Jaundice	...	...	943
Angeoma	512	Jointill	...	...	1941
Arthritic	1366	Mastitis	...	...	2651
Bone Taint	65	Melanosis	...	...	11
Bruised	2075	Moribund	...	...	3554
Cirrhosis	133	Nephritis	...	...	440
C. Bovis	2298	Oedema	...	...	142
Congestion	884	Parasitic	...	...	6292
Decomposition	1376	Pericarditis	...	...	321
Diamonds	10	Pleurisy	...	...	2494
Dropsy	460	Pneumonia	...	...	413
Emaciation	2272	Septic	...	...	7612

Empyema	...	...	...	1853	Stained	...	...	...	100
Enteritis	...	...	...	45	Suppurative	...	...	...	205
Erysipelas	...	...	...	753	T.B.	...	...	...	82537
Fevered	...	...	...	4318	Tumours	...	...	...	1719
Fluke	...	...	...	31597	Urticaria	...	...	...	407
Fractured	...	...	...	325	Xanthosis	...	...	...	474
Carried forward	...	59307							171988

Slaughterhouses Act, 1954. The Local Authority's resolution under Section 4(2) of the Slaughterhouses Act, 1954, that no private slaughterhouse licence will be renewed or granted in Blackpool in the future, was confirmed by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

Cysticercus Bovis. The department is continuing its special technique in the examination of carcases for the presence of *Cysticercus Bovis*, and it will be seen from the undermentioned table that the number of infected cattle has reduced considerably during the year. This position is most encouraging but there has been no relaxation in the inspection of carcases as it is still felt that in the interests of public health this work should continue.

INCIDENCE OF CYSTICERCUS BOVIS IN ANIMALS SLAUGHTERED AT BLACKPOOL ABATTOIRS DURING 1955.

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	TOTAL
Slaughtered	1020	1151	780	737	845	623	865	1048	1069	995	966	1288	11387
Infested	9	20	10	7	5	5	2	4	5	2	4	2	75
Per Cent	.9	1.8	1.3	1.0	.6	.8	.2	.4	.5	.2	.4	.2	.7

CARCASES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed (if known)	9205	2126	1358	47851	18087	—
Number inspected	9205	2126	1358	47851	18087	—
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</i>						
Whole carcases condemned	3	16	56	69	76	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	5485	1398	9	2422	1418	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	59.6	66.5	4.8	5.2	8.2	—
<i>Tuberculosis only:</i>						
Whole carcases condemned	6	41	5	Nil	18	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	926	503	Nil	Nil	576	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	10.1	25.6	.37	Nil	3.3	—
<i>Cysticercosis:</i>						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	63	8	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	7	4	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned ...	Nil	Nil	—	—	—	—

Sale of Horseflesh. There are now no shops in the town selling horse flesh for human consumption.

Disposal of Condemned Meat and Other Foods. There has been no change in the department's arrangements for the disposal of condemned meat and other foods.

All meat unfit for human consumption which has been condemned following inspection at the Public Slaughterhouse is heavily stained with green dye before being removed from the premises by a reputable firm of manufacturers whose works are situate within the Borough boundary. At these works all meat is converted into fertiliser and none of it is sold as pet animal food, nor is there any leakage through other channels whereby the public health is endangered. In respect of all other foods condemned in shops or warehouses, the department accepts full responsibility for its disposal by collecting the condemned items by van and conveying them to the refuse disposal works where they are destroyed by incineration.

Complete records of meat and other foods condemned are maintained and the Council is satisfied that the above arrangements at the Public Slaughterhouse and elsewhere provide adequate protection for the general public.

Food Inspection. During the past twelve months, the undermentioned food-stuffs were condemned as unfit for human consumption. This is in addition to the meat condemned at the Public Slaughterhouse :—

LIST OF FOODSTUFFS CONDEMNED DURING 1955.

	Units	Pounds	Bags/Boxes	Tins/Jars
Biscuits	...	—	—	—
Meat (tinned)	...	165	5281	80
Bacon and Ham	...	—	4345	35
Fish (fresh)	...	21	511	27
Shellfish	...	—	12	—
Fruit (fresh)	...	4	6	—
Vegetables (fresh)	...	—	122	29
Meat (fresh)	...	167	766	8
Fish (tinned)	...	—	105	1
Fruit (tinned)	...	156	2572	40
Vegetables (tinned)	...	2723	1654	—
Milk (tinned)	...	68	345	—
Butter and Fats	...	—	54	—
Jams and Marmalades, etc.	—	—	141	—
Bread	...	—	1	—
Tea and Coffee	...	—	9	—
Rabbits	...	—	25	2
Poultry	...	—	—	—
Cheese	...	—	22	10
Eggs	...	257	652	—
Cereals	...	1	12	22
Sweets	...	—	2	—
Soup	...	—	71	17
Miscellaneous	...	46	120	—
TOTAL	..	3608	16818	271
				7987

Chinese Frozen Egg Albumen and Chinese Frozen Whole Egg. During the year, the department was informed of certain stocks of Chinese frozen egg, and Chinese flaked and powdered albumen which were suspect and had been delivered to food manufacturers and wholesalers in the Borough. Samples were taken for bacteriological examination and the results of these tests indicated the presence of various types of *Salmonella* organisms.

The removal for use of all infected stocks was suspended by agreement with the firms concerned until arrangements could be made for satisfactory heat treatment, and all stocks free of organisms were allowed to be used in processes which were approved by the department.

Mussels from the Piers. Although no complaints have been received during the year of persons taking mussels from the pier piles, the Local Authority, with the consent of the pier companies, have continued their policy of providing warning notice boards affixed to the piers informing people that these mussels are unfit for human consumption. There is no doubt that these notices are having the desired effect.

Foreign Matter in Food. It is gratifying to note that the public are year by year becoming more hygiene-minded, particularly as far as foodstuffs are concerned, and this attitude has probably resulted in the increased number of enquiries and complaints received by the department from the public. The great variety of cases of foodstuffs containing extraneous matter can be judged from the under-mentioned complaints which the department has investigated :—

- Foreign matter in loaf of bread.
- Dirty condition of milk bottle.
- Foreign matter in rock confectionery.
- Mouldy condition of Apple Cream Tart.
- Foreign matter in biscuits.
- Foreign matter in sugar sweets.
- Foreign matter in tea cake.
- Insects in bag of oatmeal.
- Mineral matter in bag of rice.
- Portion of label in bottle of lemonade.
- Piece of wire in rock confectionery.
- Mouldy condition of beef steak pie.

Stalls on the Sands. Periodic visits have been made by the staff to ensure that there was compliance with the Local Authority's Bye-laws made under Section 15 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, and it is pleasing to record that the survey which was carried out last year has resulted in the stallholders maintaining a good standard of hygiene and having their stalls fitted up in accordance with the department's requirements.

Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955. With the coming into operation of these Regulations, the Local Authority decided that one of the best methods of approach in the first instance was to arrange a number of lectures which would be held at the Blackpool College of Technology, and at which the various food trades and organisations would be invited to attend. The requirements of the Regulations could then be fully explained and those attending could be given the opportunity of raising questions on any points at issue.

As a result, separate lectures were given to the following bodies :—

- Blackpool and Fylde* Branch of the Caterers' Association.
- Blackpool Fish Friers' Association.
- Fylde Coast Private Hotels' Association.
- Blackpool Retail Grocers' and Bakers' Associations.
- Blackpool Co-operative Society grocers', bakers' and butchers' departments.
- Blackpool Hotels and Restaurants' Association.
- Blackpool Hotel and Boarding-house Association.
- Blackpool Trades' Council.
- The Licensed Victuallers' Association.
- Blackpool and District Meat Traders' Association.
- Blackpool and Fylde Retail Fish Trades Association.
- Fylde Coast Retail Fruiterers' Association.
- Blackpool and Preston Branch of the Ice Cream Alliance.

All these lectures were exceptionally well attended and it was obvious from the start that the majority of food traders were keenly interested and showed willingness to co-operate with the Local Authority in ensuring a high standard of food hygiene in the Borough.

The Chairman or Vice-Chairman of the Related Health Services Committee acted as chairman at each meeting and the talks were given by the Medical Officer of Health and the Chief Sanitary Inspector. These lectures were well publicised in the local press and other press publicity was also arranged.

This is to be followed up with a survey made by the District Sanitary Inspectors of all food premises. It is estimated that there must be approximately 12,000 such establishments in the Borough and it must be envisaged that unless additional staff can be obtained then this very important work will take some considerable time before it can be considered to be completed satisfactorily.

Food Premises. The following is a list of shops in the borough where food is exposed for sale :

Butchers' meat	...	...	...	...	...	...	228
Fish and Greengrocery	...	...	...	...	...	...	114
Grocery, provisions and confectionery	...	...	...	...	...	...	523
Restaurants, cafes, tea rooms	...	...	...	...	...	...	228
Sweet confectionery	...	...	...	...	...	...	166
Tripe shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	75
Oyster Stalls	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
Fish and Chip Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	143

Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act, 1951. Twelve premises are registered under Section 2 of the Act, i.e. premises where filling materials are used. No premises are registered under either Section 6 or 7, i.e. premises where rag flock is manufactured or stored.

During the year, 12 samples were taken and the analyst's reports showed that all conformed to the prescribed standard.

Merchandise Marks Act, 1926. During the year, attention of the butchers in the town was drawn especially to the labelling of meat and the greengrocers to the proper labelling of fruit.

The Milk (Special Designation) (Specified Areas) (No. 2) Order, 1955.

The above Order was made by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and the Ministry of Health and came into operation on the 6th December, 1955. Therefore, on and after that date, all dairymen who retail milk in any part of the area must sell the milk under special designation, irrespective of whether the premises from which the milk is retailed are inside or outside the area and any other milk which is retailed outside the specified area from those same premises must also be sold under special designation.

It is also obligatory to use a special designation in relation to milk sold to a caterer, unless the caterer intends to pasteurise or sterilise the milk and is licensed to do so.

The special designations authorised by the Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1949 to 1954, are " Pasteurised," " Sterilised " and " Tuberculin Tested. "

Milk Supply. The following is a list of milk purveyors in the borough :

Milk Stores (large depots)	...	...	...	...	...	7
Milk shops selling by retail (loose milk)	...	...	...	...	...	—
Dairymen's premises (not including farmers)	...	...	...	...	...	27
Distributors of bottled milk from retail shops	...	...	...	...	...	268
Dairymen using registered dairies other than own premises	...	...	...	...	...	20

Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, 1954. The following licences under the above regulations were in operation at the end of the year 1955 :

Dealers' Licences :

Tuberculin Tested	...	...	...	...	...	...	78
Pasteurised	...	...	...	...	...	...	259
Sterilised	...	...	...	...	...	...	204

Supplementary Licences :

Tuberculin Tested	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Pasteurised	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Sterilised	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Dealer Pasteurisers	...	...	...	...	...	...	2

Milk Analysis. The following statistics relate to the chemical and bacteriological examination of milk.

CHEMICAL ANALYSIS OF MILK

The number of milk samples taken during the year was 134, and of these 120 proved satisfactory.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF MILK

13 samples of non-designated milk were examined for the presence of tubercle bacilli and all proved satisfactory. 13 samples were also submitted to the methylene blue test and 4 of these proved unsatisfactory. All satisfied the animal inoculation test.

The following tables show the results of samples taken under the Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, 1949.

METHYLENE BLUE TEST

Grade of Milk	Outside the Borough		Inside the Borough	
	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
T.T. (Channel Islands) ...	58	9	6	2
T.T. Pasteurised ...	62	—	—	—
Pasteurised ...	63	1	39	—

PHOSPHATASE TEST

Grade of Milk	Outside the Borough		Inside the Borough	
	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
T.T. (Pasteurised) ...	62	—	—	—
Pasteurised ...	64	—	39	—

ANIMAL INOCULATION TEST

Grade of Milk	Outside the Borough		Inside the Borough	
	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
T.T. (Channel Islands) ...	4	—	—	—
Pasteurised ...	—	—	1	—
T.T. (Pasteurised) ...	—	—	—	—

TURBIDITY TEST

Grade of Milk	Outside the Borough		Inside the Borough	
	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Sterilised	51	—	—	—

Ice Cream Supply. The report set out below was submitted to the Related Health Services Committee, and shows in detail the action taken by the department in connection with the manufacture and sale of ice cream.

Introduction. The number of manufacturers of ice cream has again shown a slight reduction, and this year has again seen a decline in the number of purveyors.

	Mix	1939	1952	1953	1954	1955
		Heat Treated	Cold	Total	Heat Treated	Cold
Manufacturers	Heat Treated	72	31	29	24	23
	Cold	23	1	1	2	1
	Total	95	32	30	26	24
Purveyors	Heat Treated	219	458	431	418	408
	Cold	23	1	1	2	1
	Total	242	459	432	420	409

Premises. The structural condition of the buildings used in connection with the manufacture of ice cream remains satisfactory.

Class of Manufacture	No. of Rooms available			Total
	1.	2.	3.	
Heat Treated Mix	3	16	4	23
Cold Mix	—	1	—	1
Total	3	17	4	24

The stalls on the sands are generally of modern construction, and can easily be operated to comply with the requirements of the bye-laws relating to the sale of food in the open air. The operation of the stalls has been kept under general observation, but shortage of staff has prevented the carrying out of detailed routine inspection, as has been the custom in recent years.

The stalls on the Promenade and other forecourts are generally now satisfactory and steps are being continued by stall holders to minimise the risk of contamination when cutting blocks of ice cream into wafers.

Equipment. During the year, equipment used in the manufacture of ice cream has been maintained in compliance with the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment, etc.,) Regulations, 1947 to 1952.

Analysis of Results. For the purpose of analysis, 32 samples have been taken for chemical and 64 for bacteriological examination.

Chemical. (a) Throughout 1955, the composition of ice cream has been governed by the Food Standards (Ice Cream) Order, 1953. Under this Order, ice cream must contain a minimum of 5% fat, 10% sugar and 7½% milk solids other than fats.

In the Order variations are allowed in the case of ice cream containing fruit and kosher products.

All samples satisfied the requirements of the Food Standards (Ice Cream) Order, 1953.

(b) A comparative classification of the fat content in the samples for the two years 1955 and 1954 is shown in the following tables.

Classification		Fat Content %			1955.	1954.
Over 3	Below 3	3	...	...	—	1
Over 4	Below 4	4	...	...	—	1
Over 5	Below 5	5	...	...	—	4
Over 6	Below 6	6	...	...	8	3
Over 7	Below 7	7	...	...	3	3
Over 8	Below 8	8	...	...	4	1
Over 9	Below 9	9	...	...	3	3
Over 10	Below 10	10	...	...	3	4
		Totals			11	12
		Totals			32	32

The average fat content of all samples was 7.78% compared with 8.37% during 1954. This shows a slight percentage decrease.

(c) The average fat content of samples taken from manufacturers whose products are sold from stalls on the sands was 8.94% compared with 9.59% during 1954. The details of the individual samples are as follows:—

Manufacturer	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
% Fat	...	9.4	9.4	9.0	8.0	8.6	13.1
							5.3 5.0 5.1 } Average 5.1

Under paragraph 5(a) it is noted that in relation to the fat content, the legally prescribed minimum is 5%. However, by a special condition inserted in licences to trade on the sands, it is required that ice cream sold from stalls on the sands must contain not less than 8% of fat. One Trader, although satisfying the legal standard failed to satisfy the special requirement of the Corporation on three occasions, the fat content of the original sample being 5.3% and the "follow-up" samples 5% and 5.1% respectively. These results were forwarded to the Borough Treasurer for submitting to the Watch Committee.

Bacteriological. The following table shows the grading of the 75 samples submitted for examination by the methylene blue test.

Class of Mix	Provisional Grade				Totals
	1.	2.	3.	4.	
Heat Treated	43	10	4	6	63
Cold	1	—	—	—	1
Total	44	10	4	6	64

84.4% were within Grades 1 and 2 as compared with 75.8% during 1954.

15.6% were within Grades 3 and 4 as compared with 24.2% during 1954.

Summary.

- (i) The two manufacturers who did not resume the manufacture of ice cream during 1955 were previously manufacturing for the purpose of their own businesses only. Thus the general pattern of manufacture and distribution remains unchanged.
- (ii) No sample of ice cream fell below the stipulated 5% minimum fat content. Several in the 5% to 6% group, exceeded the minimum by only a small percentage, and the manufacturers of these were advised to adjust their mix recipes to give an increased margin.
- (iii) The improvement in the bacteriological grading of the ice cream has been maintained.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938. During the year 442 samples were taken under the Act, and the results received from the Public Analyst are detailed below:—

Informal			Nature of Sample	Formal		
Genuine	Not Genuine	Ref. No.		Genuine	Not Genuine	Ref. No.
1	—	—	Almonds (Ground) ...	3	—	—
—	—	—	Angelica ...	1	—	—
1	—	—	Arrowroot ...	—	—	—
1	—	—	Aspic Jelly ...	—	—	—
—	—	—	Baking Powder ...	10	—	—
—	1	342	Barn Cakes (Buttered) ...	—	—	—
—	—	—	Bicarbonate of Soda ...	6	—	—
—	—	—	Brawn ...	2	—	—
—	1	334	Bread ...	—	—	—
1	—	—	Bread and Butter ...	—	—	—
—	—	—	Bread Crumbs (Golden) ...	1	—	—
1	—	—	Butter ...	15	—	—
2	—	—	Butterscotch ...	—	—	—
—	—	—	Cake (Jam and Cream) ...	1	—	—
—	1	268	Cake (Windsor Gateau) ...	—	—	—
—	—	—	Cake Mixture ...	4	—	—
—	—	—	Cashews (Almond Flavoured) ...	1	—	—
—	—	—	Cheese (Processed) ...	2	—	—
1	—	—	Cheese Spread ...	2	—	—
—	—	—	Cheese with ham (spread) ...	1	—	—
—	—	—	Cherries (Glace) ...	2	—	—
1	—	—	Chicken (Minced) ...	—	—	—
—	—	—	Chico, Coffee compound ...	1	—	—
—	—	—	Cinnamon (Ground) ...	1	—	—
—	—	—	Cockles ...	—	—	—
1	—	—	Cockles in malt vinegar ...	1	—	—
—	—	—	Coconut ...	2	—	—
—	—	—	Coconut (dried) ...	—	—	—
—	—	—	Coffee ...	12	—	—
—	—	—	Coffee and chicory essence ...	2	—	—
—	—	—	Condiment (non-brewed) ...	4	—	—
2	—	—	Confectionery ...	—	—	—
—	—	—	Cornflour ...	1	—	—
—	1	288	Cream ...	1	2	303, 304
—	—	—	Cream Butter ...	—	1	63
—	—	—	Cream of Tartar ...	3	—	—
3	—	—	Curry Powder ...	—	2	—
—	—	—	Dates (stoned) ...	—	—	—
2	—	—	Easter Egg, chocolate ...	—	—	—
1	—	—	Embrocation ...	—	1	—
—	—	—	Fish Paste ...	9	—	—
—	—	—	Flour (self raising) ...	1	—	—
—	—	—	Gelatine ...	—	1	—
—	—	—	Ginger (ground) ...	2	—	—
—	—	—	Golden raising powder ...	—	1	—
—	—	—	Gravy browning ...	28	—	—
4	—	—	Ice Cream ...	—	—	—
2	—	—	Ice Cream Cones ...	—	1	—
—	—	—	Ice-Fancies (sugar sweetened) ...	—	—	—
8	—	—	Ice Lollies ...	—	—	—
1	—	—	Iodine, Tincture of ...	—	—	—
2	—	—	Jam ...	—	—	—
3	—	—	Jelly ...	—	—	—
1	—	—	Jelly (table) ...	—	—	—
1	—	—	Junket ...	—	—	—
—	1	269	Lard ...	13	—	—
—	—	—	Lemonade ...	—	—	—
1	—	—	Lemon Cheese ...	—	—	—
—	—	—	Lemon Fruit Squash ...	1	—	—
1	—	—	Lemon Juice ...	—	1	—
—	—	—	Lemon Juice (Natural) ...	—	1	—
—	—	—	Limeade ...	—	1	—
—	—	—	Lucozade ...	—	1	—
1	—	—	Margarine ...	10	—	—
—	—	—	Margarine (10% Butter) ...	—	1	—
—	—	—	Marzipan ...	—	1	—
—	—	—	Meat (potted) ...	2	1	72
—	—	—	Milk ...	120	14	253-4, 265, 92 118-9, 428-9 431-4, 383 263
1	—	—	Milk (condensed) ...	—	—	—
—	—	—	Mineral Water (Lemonade) ...	—	1	—
—	—	—	Mint in Vinegar ...	—	1	243
—	—	—	Mustard ...	—	1	—
—	—	—	Nutmeg ...	—	1	—
1	—	—	Olive oil and raspberry vinegar ...	—	—	—
—	—	—	Orange Crystals ...	—	1	—
3	—	—	Orange drink ...	—	2	—
—	—	—	Orange Squash ...	—	1	—
—	—	—	Parsley ...	—	1	—
1	—	—	Peanut butter ...	—	1	—
—	—	—	Peel (cut, dried, orange, lemon, and citron) ...	—	2	—
2	—	—	Pepper (white) ...	—	8	—

Informal			Nature of Sample	Formal		
Genuine	Not Genuine	Ref. No.		Genuine	Not Genuine	Ref. No.
1	—	—	Phosphate compound ...	—	—	—
—	—	—	Pickle (sweet) ...	1	—	—
—	—	—	Pie filling (lemon) flavour ...	1	—	—
1	—	—	Pudding mix (Jingaleanor) ...	—	—	—
—	—	—	Pudding (plum) ...	1	—	—
—	—	—	Pudding (ready mixed fruit) ...	1	—	—
—	—	—	Raisins (stoned) ...	1	—	—
1	—	—	Rice ...	—	—	—
—	—	—	Rice (ground) ...	3	—	—
—	—	—	Rice Cremola ...	1	—	—
1	—	—	Robrex ...	—	—	—
1	—	—	Rock confection ...	—	—	—
—	—	—	Rum butter (Cumberland) ...	1	—	—
1	—	—	Saccharin ...	—	—	—
1	—	—	Sage ...	1	—	—
—	—	—	Sage (dried) ...	1	—	—
—	—	—	Salmon paste ...	1	—	—
1	—	—	Salt ...	—	—	—
—	1	287	Sardines in Mustard Sauce ...	—	—	—
1	—	—	Sandwich (beef) ...	—	—	—
—	—	—	Sauce ...	1	—	—
—	—	—	Sauce (Worcestershire) ...	1	—	—
—	—	—	Sausage ...	1	—	—
—	—	—	Sausage (beef) ...	7	—	—
—	—	—	Sausage (pork) ...	5	—	—
—	—	—	Sausage (beef and pork) ...	1	—	—
—	—	—	Semolina ...	1	—	—
—	1	324	Seasoning ("Knor") ...	—	—	—
—	—	—	Shrimps (potted) ...	1	—	—
—	—	—	Soup Mix (Noodle) ...	1	—	—
—	—	—	Sponge mixture (sweetened) ...	2	—	—
—	—	—	Suet (beef) ...	1	—	—
1	—	—	Sweets (butter toffee) ...	—	—	—
—	—	—	Tapioca ...	1	—	—
1	—	—	Tea ...	—	—	—
—	1	8	Tea cake ...	—	—	—
—	—	—	Vinegar (malt) ...	17	—	—
1	—	—	Yorkshire pudding and pancake mix ...	—	—	—
—	—	—	Yorkshire Relish ...	2	—	—
63	8	—		352	19	—

Remarks on Adulterated Samples.

Cake

Informal Sample No. 8

The sample was contaminated with soil or mud. Reported to the Related Health Services Committee on the 31st January, 1955. The Town Clerk was requested to send a warning letter to the Bakery.

Cream of Tartar

Formal Sample No. 63

The sample consisted of Arrowroot. Further investigation showed that the storage tin had been labelled wrongly. Reported to the Related Health Services Committee on the 4th April, 1955, and in view of the special circumstances, a warning letter was sent to the vendor.

Potted Meat

Formal Sample No. 72

The sample consisted of meat paste. To be reported to the next meeting of the Related Health Services Committee with the view to institute legal proceedings.

The vendor was fined £5 and costs plus £1 11s. 6d. analyst's fee at Blackpool Police Court on the 20th May, 1955, for contravention of Section 3 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

Milk	Formal Sample No. 92	This sample was genuine but abnormal milk deficient in solids-not-fat to the extent of 2.3 per cent. Reported to the Related Health Services Committee. No further action taken.
Milk	Formal Sample No. 118	This sample was deficient in fat to the extent of 3.3 per cent. Reported to the Related Health Services Committee. No action.
Milk	Formal Sample No. 119	This sample was deficient in fat to the extent of 11.6 per cent. Reported to the Related Health Services Committee and referred to the County Medical Officer of Health as the farm at which the milk was produced is in the area of the Lancashire County Council.
Milk	Formal Sample No. 428	"Appeal to Cow Sample" deficient in fat to the extent of 13.3 per cent.
Milk	Formal Sample No. 429	"Appeal to Cow Sample" deficient in fat to the extent of 3.3 per cent.
Milk	Formal Sample No. 431	"Appeal to Cow Sample" deficient in fat to the extent of 6.6 per cent.
Milk	Formal Sample No. 432	"Appeal to Cow Sample" deficient in fat to the extent of 3.3 per cent.
Milk	Formal Sample No. 433	"Appeal to Cow Sample" deficient in fat to the extent of 16.6 per cent.
Milk	Formal Sample No. 434	"Appeal to Cow Sample" deficient in fat to the extent of 16.6 per cent.
Mint in Vinegar	Formal Sample No. 243	These Appeal to Cow samples were taken following the adverse sample No. 119 above. The results were reported to the Related Health Services Committee and also forwarded to the Lancashire County Authorities.
Milk	Formal Sample No. 253	This sample of mint in vinegar was not labelled in accordance with the requirements of the Labelling of Food Order.
Milk	Formal Sample No. 253	Reported to the Related Health Services Committee and the Town Clerk was requested to send a warning letter to the manufacturer.
Milk	Formal Sample No. 253	The sample contained 3.5% of extraneous water. Reported to the Related Health Services Committee, "Appeals to Cow Samp'es" to be taken see Nos. 263 and 265 below.

Milk

Formal Sample No. 254

This sample was genuine but abnormal milk deficient in solids-not-fat to the extent of 1.1%. Reported to the Related Health Services Committee. See Appeal to Cow Samples Nos. 263 and 265 below.

Milk

Formal Sample No. 263

"Appeal to Cow Sample" genuine but abnormal milk deficient in solids-not-fat to the extent of 4.7%.

Milk

Formal Sample No. 265

"Appeal to Cow Sample" genuine but abnormal milk deficient in solids-not-fat to the extent of 1.1%. Reported to the Related Health Services Committee. The results of the "Appeal to Cow" samples show that the deficiency is not due to water added after the milk had been taken from the cow, but the Town Clerk was requested to draw the attention of the firm which produced the milk to the matter.

Cake
(Windsor
Gateau)

Informal Sample No. 268

This sample was of filled cake devoid of fresh cream.

Reported to the Related Health Services Committee and the Town Clerk was requested to send a warning letter to the firm which made the cake.

Lemonade

Informal Sample No. 269

This sample of mineral water contained a foreign sediment. The bottle of lemonade was seized by the Chief Meat and Food Inspector and condemned by a Magistrate. Reported to the Related Health Services Committee and the Town Clerk was instructed to send a warning letter to the manufacturers.

Sardines in
Mustard
Sauce

Informal Sample No. 287

This sample was contaminated with metals. The remainder of the stock in the shop was voluntarily surrendered. Reported to the Related Health Services Committee and the Town Clerk was requested to send a warning letter to the retailers.

Thick Cream

Informal Sample No. 288

This sample was deficient in fat to the extent of 52%. Reported to the Related Health Services Committee and the Town Clerk was requested to send a warning letter to the retailers.

Thick Cream

Formal Sample No. 303

The sample was deficient in fat to the extent of 49.1%. Reported to the Related Health Services Committee. See sample No. 288 above.

Thick Cream Formal Sample No. 304

The sample was deficient in fat to the extent of 50.4%. Reported to the Related Health Services Committee. See sample No. 288 above.

"Knorr" Seasoning

Informal Sample No. 324

The term "Vegetable Protein Derivatives" which appeared on the label of this article was not a sufficient description to satisfy the requirements of the Labelling of Food Order. Reported to the Related Health Services Committee. Afterwards, on the advice of the Food Labelling Division of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, the department wrote to the firm supplying the article regarding the amendment of the label.

Buttered Barm Cakes

Informal Sample No. 342

The barm cakes contained margarine as the filler instead of butter. Reported to the Related Health Services Committee. Formal sample to be taken when selling re-commences.

Bread

Informal Sample No. 344

The bread contained foreign matter which consisted of a small portion of stem, or possibly mid-rib of a leaf, without any diagnostic features by which it could be identified. Reported to the Related Health Services Committee. Vendor notified. No further action.

Milk

Formal Sample No. 383

The sample was deficient in fat to the extent of 10%. Reported to the Related Health Services Committee and also referred to the County Medical Officer of Health, as the milk was produced at premises in the area of the Lancashire County Council.

Total number of samples taken :—

(a) Under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938	...	...	...	...	442
Genuine	...	...	...	...	415
Not genuine	...	...	...	...	27
(b) Under the Pharmacy and Medicines Act, 1941	...	...	...	...	9
Genuine	...	...	...	...	9

Analyst's Remuneration :—Fees in accordance with the Joint Negotiating Committee's Scale for Public Analysts.

Fertiliser and Feeding Stuffs Act, 1926. During the year 17 samples were taken and the results received from the Public Analyst are set out below :

Informal			Nature of Sample	Formal		
Genuine	Not Genuine	Ref. No.		Genuine	Not Genuine	Ref. No.
—	—	15	Adco Growmore Fertiliser ...	1	—	—
—	1	—	Battery Layer's Mash ...	—	—	—
1	—	—	Bee's Plant Food ...	—	—	—
—	—	—	Clay's Fertiliser ...	1	—	—
—	1	9	Fertiloids (National Growmore Fertiliser Tablets) ...	—	1	13
—	—	—	Fison's Sulphate of Ammonia ...	1	—	—
1	—	—	Liquinure ...	—	—	—
1	—	—	Miller's Ofals. Fine ...	—	—	—
1	—	—	National Pig Food No. 2 ...	—	—	—
—	1	16	Pig Food Fattening Meal ...	—	—	—
1	—	—	Plantoids ...	—	—	—
—	1	2	Poultry Pellets ...	—	—	—
—	1	6	Sangral Fertiliser ...	—	—	—
—	1	11	Tonk's Rose Fertiliser ...	—	1	14
1	—	—	Welgro Fertiliser ...	—	—	—
6	6	—		3	2	—

Action taken in respect of those samples which did not comply with the requirements of the Act is detailed below :

Poultry Pellets Informal Sample No. 2

The sample contained 1.0% less albuminoids (expressed in terms of the whole bulk) than the amount declared, after making due allowance for the limits of variation permitted by the Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs Regulations, 1932. Reported to Related Health Services Committee and referred to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Sangral Fertiliser

Informal Sample No. 6

The sample contained 0.5% more soluble phosphoric acid (expressed in terms of the whole bulk) than the amount declared, after making due allowance for the permitted limits of variation. The excess of soluble phosphoric acid is not to the prejudice of the purchaser. Reported to Related Health Services Committee. Referred to Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Fertiloids

Informal Sample No. 9

The sample contains 2.2% more potash than the amount declared (expressed in terms of the whole bulk). The variation is greater than permitted by the limits of variation contained in the Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs Regulations. Reported to the Related Health Services Committee. See Formal Sample No. 13.

Tonk's Rose
Fertiliser

Informal Sample No. 11

The sample contains 0.9% less soluble phosphoric acid and 1.15% more insoluble phosphoric acid than the quantities declared. The deviation is outside the limits of variation permitted by the Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs Regulations, 1932. Reported to Related Health Services Committee. See Formal Sample No. 14.

Fertiloids

Formal Sample No. 13

The sample contains 1.9% more potash than the amount declared (expressed in terms of the whole bulk). The variation is greater than permitted by the limits of variation contained in the Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs Regulations, 1932. In certain circumstances, particularly in the case of tomato growing, an excess of potash may be prejudicial. Reported to Related Health Services Committee. Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food informed of result of analysis, as was the vendor also.

Tonk's Rose
Fertiliser

Formal Sample No. 14

The sample contains 0.9% more nitrogen than the quantity declared. The deviation is outside the limits of variation permitted by the Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs Regulations, 1932. Reported to Related Health Services Committee. On the advice of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, the Department passed the result of the sample by letter to the Public Controller, in London.

Battery
Layer's
Mash

Informal Sample No. 15

The sample contains 1.4% less fibre than the amount declared. This deficiency, which is not to the prejudice of the purchaser, is 0.6% below the lower permitted limit of variation. Reported to the Related Health Services Committee. Formal Sample to be taken.

Pig Food
Fattening
Meal

Informal Sample No. 16

The sample contains 2.24% less fibre than the amount declared. This deficiency, which is not to the prejudice of the purchaser, is 1.49% below the lower permitted limit of variation. Reported to the Related Health Services Committee. Formal Sample to be taken.

Pharmacy and Medicines Act, 1941. 9 samples were taken during the year and the results received from the Public Analyst are as follows :—

Informal			Nature of Sample	Formal		
Genuine	Not Genuine	Ref. No.		Genuine	Not Genuine	Ref. No.
1	—	—	Adults Nerve Tonic	—	—	—
1	—	—	All Fours Chest and Lung Mixture	—	—	—
1	—	—	Bismuth Soda and Pepsin Mixture with Pancratin	—	—	—
1	—	—	Cinnamon and Quinamine	—	—	—
1	—	—	Hills Bronchial Balsam	—	—	—
1	—	—	Iron and Yeast Tonic Tablets ...	—	—	—
1	—	—	Purified Honey, Glycerine, Syrup of Blackcurrant	—	—	—
1	—	—	Rose Hip Syrup	—	—	—
1	—	—	White Pine and Cherry Tar Syrup	—	—	—
9	—	—		—	—	—

Prosecutions During 1955.

MONTH	SECTION	CONTRAVIENIENCE
March	Public Health Act, 1936, Section 93.	Order made for repairs to be completed within 8 weeks.
May	Food and Drugs Act, 1938, Section 3.	Defendant fined £5 and costs. Analyst's Fee £1 11s. 6d.
June	Public Health Act, 1936, Sections 39 and 93.	Abatement Order for 28 days made in respect of both sections. In addition a fine of 5/- was made against the owner.

INDEX.

A	Page	F	Page	
Administration of Analgesics	22	Factories Acts	41 - 43	
Allocation of Municipal Tenancies	45 - 48	Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs		
Ambulance Service	25, 26	Act, 1926	67, 68	
Analysis of milk	59	Food and Drugs Act, 1938	62	
Animals Slaughtered	54	Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955	57, 58	
Ante-Natal and Relaxation Exercises	17, 19	Food Inspection	56	
Ante-Natal Services	16	Food Poisoning	15	
Area of Borough	7	Food Premises	57	
Area of Foreshore	7	Food Samples, etc.	62 - 66	
Artificial Sunlight	16, 19	Food Supply	54	
B				
Bacteriological Examination of Milk	59	Foreign Matter in Food	57	
Births	7	Foreshore, Area of	7	
Birth Rate	7	Foreword	2	
Blind and Partially Sighted Persons	35	Frozen Egg	56	
Borough Rate	7	G		
Birth Control Clinics	17	Gas and Air Analgesia	22	
B.C.G. Vaccination	27	General Food Supply	54	
C				
Camps, Caravans and Wooden Structures	43	General Statistics	7	
Cancer, Mortality	10	Graded Milks, Analysis and Examination	59, 60	
Care and After Care	27	H		
Care of Mothers and Young Children	16 - 20	Health Committee	4	
Care of Premature Infants	20	Health Visiting	22, 23	
Chemical Analysis of Milk	59	Heart Diseases, Mortality	10	
Child Minders	18	Home Nursing	23, 24	
Child Welfare Centres	16	Hospital Confinements	17	
Children, Premature	20, 21	Houses, Empty	7	
Chinese Egg	56	Houses, Inhabited	7	
Cleansing of Persons	41	Housing	44, 45	
Clearance Areas	44	Housing, Camps, Caravans and Wooden Structures	43	
Clinics	16, 20	Housing, Clearance Areas	44	
Committees	4	Housing, Overcrowding	45	
Common Lodging Houses	40	Horseflesh, Sale of	56	
Comparative Statistics	11	Hygiene, Food	57	
Condemned Meats and Other Foods	54, 55, 56	I		
Confinements in Hospital	17	Ice Cream Manufacture, Report on	60 - 61	
Contacts, Tuberculosis	27	Illegitimate Births	7	
Cremation	34	Illegitimate Children	18	
Cysticercus Bovis	55	Immunisation and Vaccination	24	
D				
Dairies	58	Infant Mortality	10	
Day Nurseries	17	Infant Welfare Services	16	
Death Rate	7 - 11	Infantile Deaths	10	
Death, Causes of	9 - 11	Infants, Premature	20, 21	
Deaths	7, 8, 9, 10, 11	Infectious Diseases	11, 12	
Deaths under One Year	7 - 11	Insect Infestation	49	
Dental Care	20	Insecticides, Organic	49, 50	
Diphtheria Immunisation	24	Inspection of Food	56	
Disinfestation and Rodent Control	48	Inspection of Meat	54	
Disposal of Condemned Meat and Other Foods	56	L		
Domestic Help Service	28	Light Treatment, Exercises and Massage	16, 19	
E				
Entrants to Municipal Service, Medical Examination of	33	Lunacy and Mental Treatment Act, 1890—1930	30	
Epileptics	34, 35			
Estimated Population	7			
Examinations, Medical	33			

INDEX—cont.

M	Page	R	Page
Manufacture of Ice Cream	60 - 61	Rag Flocks and Other Fillings	
Maternal Mortality	11	Materials Act, 1951	58
Meat Inspection	54	Rateable Value	7
Meat Transport	56	Refuse Collection and Disposal	37
Medical Examinations, Entrants to Municipal Service	33	Registration of Nursing Homes	34
Mental Deficiency Acts, 1913—1938	32, 33	Related Health Services Committee	4
Mental Health Service	29 - 33	Restaurants, Cafes and Snack Bars	
Mental Health Sub-Committee	29	Sanitary Accommodation	41
Merchandise Marks Act, 1926	58	Rodent Control and Vermin and Disinfestation	48 - 53
Midwives	22	Rodent Infestation	48, 52
Military Huts	45		
Milk and Ice Cream Analysis	59, 60		
Milk (Special Designations) Regulations 1954	59		
Milk (Special Designations) Specified Areas (No. 2 Order) 1955	58		
Milk Supply	58		
Mortality Rates	7, 11	Sale of Horseflesh	56
Mother and Baby Homes	18	Samples of Food, etc.	62 - 66
Municipal Houses and Tenancies	45, 46, 47, 48	Sanitary Conditions of Restaurants, Cafes and Snack Bars	41
Mussels from the Piers	57	Sanitary Conditions, Theatres, Music Halls, etc.	41
		Sanitary Inspection of the Borough	37 - 45
N		Section 29, National Assistance Act, 1948	34
National Assistance Act, 1948—1951	34	Sewerage of the Borough	36, 37
National Health Service Act, 1946: Ambulance Service	25, 26	Shops	43
Care of Mothers and Young Children	16 - 20	Slaughter of Animals	54
Clinics	16, 20	Slaughterhouses Act, 1954	55
Domestic Help Service	28	Smoke Abatement	40
Health Visiting	22, 23	Spastics	35
Home Nursing	23, 24	Staff	5, 6
Mental Health Service	29 - 33	Stalls on Sands	57
Midwifery	22	Statistics, Comparative	11
Prevention of Illness, Care and After-Care	27	Statistics, General and Vital	7
Vaccination and Immunisation	24	Stillbirths	7
Neo-Natal Mortality	10	Sunlight Clinic	16, 19
Nurses Act, 1943-45	34		
Nurseries and Child Minders (Regulations) Act, 1948	18		
Nurseries, Day	17		
Nursing Homes, Registration	34		
O			
Occupation Centre	33		
Offensive Trades	43		
Officers	5		
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	21		
Overcrowding	45		
P			
Pharmacy and Medicines Act, 1941	69		
Poliomyelitis	12		
Population, Estimated	7		
Post-Natal Services	17, 20		
Premature Infants	20, 21		
Prevention of Break-up families	28		
Prevention of Illness, Care and After-Care	27		
Prosecutions	69		
Public Health Officers	5		
R			
Rag Flocks and Other Fillings Materials Act, 1951	58		
Rateable Value	7		
Refuse Collection and Disposal	37		
Registration of Nursing Homes	34		
Related Health Services Committee	4		
Restaurants, Cafes and Snack Bars			
Sanitary Accommodation	41		
Rodent Control and Vermin and Disinfestation	48 - 53		
Rodent Infestation	48, 52		
S			
Sale of Horseflesh	56		
Samples of Food, etc.	62 - 66		
Sanitary Conditions of Restaurants, Cafes and Snack Bars	41		
Sanitary Conditions, Theatres, Music Halls, etc.	41		
Sanitary Inspection of the Borough	37 - 45		
Section 29, National Assistance Act, 1948	34		
Sewerage of the Borough	36, 37		
Shops	43		
Slaughter of Animals	54		
Slaughterhouses Act, 1954	55		
Smoke Abatement	40		
Spastics	35		
Staff	5, 6		
Stalls on Sands	57		
Statistics, Comparative	11		
Statistics, General and Vital	7		
Stillbirths	7		
Sunlight Clinic	16, 19		
T			
Theatres and Music Halls, Sanitary Conditions	41		
Transport of Meat	56		
Tuberculosis: Chest Clinic	14		
Contacts	27		
Incidence	13		
Mortality	10, 13		
Notifications	13		
Prevention, Care and After-Care	27		
Visits	28		
V			
Vaccination and Immunisation	24		
Venereal Diseases	14		
Venereal Diseases, Clinics	14		
Vermin and Insect Disinfestation	49, 50, 51, 53		
Vital Statistics	7		
W			
Water Supply	36		
Welfare Foods	18		
Whooping Cough Immunisation	25		